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(54) **Modified labeled nucleotides and polynucleotides and methods of preparing, utilizing and detecting same.**

(57) **Nucleotides and polynucleotides, including DNA, are chemically modified or labeled so as to be capable of ready detection when attached to and/or incorporated in nucleic acid material.**

EP 0 286 898 A2

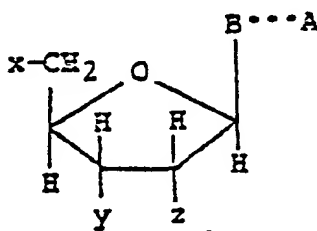
MODIFIED LABELED NUCLEOTIDES AND POLYNUCLEOTIDES AND METHODS OF PREPARING, UTILIZING AND DETECTING SAME

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

It is known to produce nucleotides or polynucleotides which are radioactively labeled, such as with isotopes or hydrogen (^3H), phosphorus (^{32}P), carbon (^{14}C) or iodine (^{125}I). Such radioactively labeled compounds are useful to detect, monitor, localize and isolate nucleic acids and other molecules of scientific or clinical interest. Unfortunately, however, the use of radioactively labeled materials presents hazards due to radiation. Also due to the relatively short half life of the radioactive materials employed to label such compounds or materials, the resulting labeled compounds or materials have a corresponding relatively short shelf life.

It has been proposed to chemically label compounds of interest, such as nucleotides and polynucleotides, so as to overcome or avoid the hazards and difficulties associated with such compounds or materials when radioactively labeled. In the article by P.R. Langer, A. A. Waldrop and D. C. Ward entitled "Enzymatic Synthesis of Biotin-Labeled Polynucleotides: Novel Nucleic Acid Affinity Probes", in *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci., USA*, Vol. 78, No. 11, pp. 6633-6637, November, 1981, there are described analogs of dUTP and UTP that contain a biotin molecule bound to the C-5 position of the pyrimidine ring through an alkylamine linker arm. The biotin-labeled nucleotides are efficient substrates for a variety of DNA and RNA polymerases *in vitro*. Polynucleotides containing low levels of biotin substitution (50 molecules or fewer per kilobase) have denaturation, reassociation and hybridization characteristics similar to those of unsubstituted controls. Biotin-labeled polynucleotides, both single and double stranded, are selectively and quantitatively retained on avidin-Sepharose, even after extensive washing with 8M urea, 6M guanidine hydrochloride or 99% formamide. In addition, biotin-labeled nucleotides can be selectively immunoprecipitated in the presence of anti-biotin antibody and *Staphylococcus aurea*, Protein A. These unique features of biotin-labeled polynucleotides suggest that they are useful affinity probes for the detection and isolation of specific DNA and RNA sequences.

The disclosures of this article are herein incorporated and made part of this disclosure. The subject matter of said article is comprised in EP-A2-0063879 in which additionally it is disclosed that compounds having the structure:

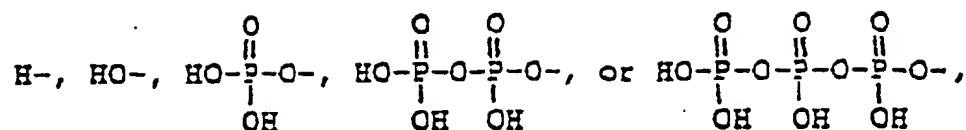


wherein B represents a purine, deazapurine, or pyrimidine moiety covalently bonded to the C¹-position of the sugar moiety, provided that when B is purine or 7-deazapurine, it is attached at the N⁹-position of the purine or deazapurine, and when B is pyrimidine, it is attached at the N¹-position;

wherein A represents a moiety consisting of at least three carbon atoms which is capable of forming a detectable complex with a polypeptide when the compound is incorporated into a double-stranded ribonucleic acid, deoxyribonucleic acid duplex, or DNA-RNA hybrid;

wherein the dotted line represents a chemical linkage joining B and A, provided that if B is purine the linkage is attached to the 8 position of the purine, if B is 7-deazapurine, the linkage is attached to the 7-position of the deazapurine, and if B is pyrimidine, the linkage is attached to the 5-position of the pyrimidine; and

wherein each of x, y, and z represents



either directly, or when incorporated into oligo- and polynucleotides, provide probes which are widely useful.

Applications disclosed in EP-A2-0 063 879 include detection and localization of polynucleotide sequences in chromosomes, fixed cells, tissue sections and cell extracts. Specific applications include chromosomal karyotyping, clinical diagnosis of nucleic acid-containing etiological agents, e.g. bacteria, viruses, or fungi, and diagnosis of genetic disorders.

The disclosures of EP-A2-0 063 879 are herein incorporated and made part of this disclosure.

By way of additional background with respect to the utilization of the biotin-polynucleotides of the above-identified Langer et al article in Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, the publication by P. R. Langer-Safer, M. Levine and D. C. Ward in Genetics entitled "An Immunological Method for Mapping Genes on Drosophila Polytene Chromosomes", describes a method employing biotinylated nucleotides as a probe for the localization of DNA sequences hybridized in situ to Drosophila polytene chromosomes. In this application these probes are detected using affinity purified rabbit anti-biotin antibody as the primary antibody and fluoresceinated goat anti-rabbit antibody as the secondary antibody. The disclosures of this Langer-Safer et al publication in Genetics are also incorporated and made part of this disclosure.

Other techniques employing biotin-labeled reagents with avidin or enzyme-labeled avidin reagents are known for the detection and determination of ligands in a liquid medium, see U.S. Patent 4,228,237. Also, it is known to effect gene enrichment based on avidin-biotin interaction, particularly as applied to Drosophila ribosomal RNA genes, see the J. Manning, M. Pellegrini and N. Davidson publication in Biochemistry, Vol. 16, No. 7, pages 1364-1369 (1977). Other publications of background interest with respect to the practices of this invention are the D. J. Eckermann and R. H. Symons article entitled "Sequence at the Site of Attachment of an Affinity-Label Derivative of Puromycin on 23-S Ribosomal RNA of Escherichia coli Ribosomes", J. Biochem., 82, 225-234 (1978); the article by S. B. Zimmerman, S. R. Kornberg and A. Kornberg entitled "Glucosylation of Deoxyribonucleic Acid-II -Glucosyl Transferases from T2- and T6-Infected Escherichia coli in The Journal of Biological Chemistry, Vol. 237, No. 2, February 1962, and the article by J. Josse and A. Kornberg "III. α - and β -Glucosyl Transferases from T4-Infected Escherichia coli", also appearing in The Journal of Biological Chemistry, Vol. 237, No. 6, June 1962.

Of further interest in connection with the practices of this invention are the publications appearing in the J. Biol. Chem., Vol. 236, No. 5, May 1961, pages 1487-1493; the same publication, Vol. 237, No. 4, pages 1251-1259 (1962); the same publication Vol. 239, No. 9, pages 2957-2963 (1964). Of special interest is the article appearing The Journal of Histochemistry and Cytochemistry, Vol. 27, No. 8, pages 1131-1139 (1979) and in the publication Nucleic Acids Research, Vol. 5, No. 9, 1977, pages 2961-2973. Also of interest is the article appearing in the publication Biochimica et Biophysica Acta by A. De Waard entitled "Specificity Difference Between the Hydroxymethylcytosine β -Glucosyl-Transferases Induced by Bacteriophages T2, T4 and T6", pages 286-304, and also the article by T. W. North and C. K. Mathews entitled "T4 Phage-Coded Deoxycytidylate Hydroxymethylase: Purification and Studies in Intermolecular Interactions", published by Academic Press, 1977, pages 898-904 and the article by E. A. Bayer and M. Wilchek entitled "The Use of Avidin-Biotin Complex as a Tool in Molecular Biology in Methods of Biochemical Analysis, Vol. 26, pages 1-45 (1980).

Other techniques useful in the practices of this invention include nick translation of DNA employing DNA polymerase. A technique for effecting nick translation is disclosed in the article by P. W. Rigby, M. Dieckmann, C. Rhodes and P. Berg entitled "Labeling Deoxyribonucleic Acid to High Specific Activity in vitro by Nick Translation with DNA Polymerase" in J. Mol. Biol. (1977), 113, 237-251. With respect to the recovery of streptavidin, such as from a culture broth of Streptomyces avidinii the article by K. Hofmann, S. W. Wood, C. C. Brinton, J. A. Montibeller and F. M. Finn entitled "Iminobiotin Affinity Columns and their Application to Retrieval of Streptavidin" in Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, Vol. 77, No. 8, pp. 4666-4668 (1980), discloses a suitable approach for the recovery of streptavidin from a streptavidin-containing material, such as from a culture broth. Streptavidin is useful as a reagent in one of the practices of this invention.

The aforementioned publications are herein incorporated and made part of this disclosure.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In accordance with the practices of this invention nucleotides are modified, such as at the 5 position of pyrimidine or the 7 position of purine, preparatory for the preparation thereof of nucleotide probes suitable for attachment to or incorporation into DNA or other nucleic acid material. In the practices of this invention nucleotides, i.e. nucleic acids, preferably are modified in a non-disruptive manner such that the resulting modified nucleotides are capable of incorporation into nucleic acids and once incorporated in nucleic acids the modified nucleotides do not significantly interfere with the formation or stabilization of the double helix formed of the resulting nucleic acids containing the modified nucleotides. The non-disruptive modification of nucleotides and nucleic acids incorporating such modified nucleotides is in contrast with those modifications of nucleotides which are characterized as a disruptive modification in the sense that the resulting disruptively modified nucleotides and nucleic acids containing the same block proper double helix formation. In the practices of this invention, the nucleotides are desirably modified at the 5 position of the pyrimidine or the 7 position of the purine. The nucleotides so modified are non-disruptively modified and nucleic acids containing such nucleotides are capable of forming a double helix arrangement.

Broadly, in another aspect of the practices of this invention various methods are useful for the tagging or labeling of DNA in a non-disruptive manner. For example, biotin is added on the end of a DNA or RNA molecule. The addition of biotin is accomplished by addition of a ribonucleotide. The 3',4' vicinal hydroxyl groups are oxidized by periodate oxidation and then reduced by a borohydride in the presence of biotin hydrazide. Alternatively, carbodiimide can also be used to couple biotin to the aldehyde group.

Another technique for tagging nucleic acid material such as DNA or RNA involves the addition of a large marker to the end of a DNA or RNA molecule. One example of this technique is the addition of a molecule, e.g. lysylglycine, where the amino groups are tagged with biotin. Another example would be to follow the procedure set forth hereinabove but employing carbodiimide as the cross-linking agent. Still another example of this technique would be to produce a biotinylated dA:dV double helical polymer and to ligate this polymer to the probe prepared in accordance with this invention.

Another technique for tagging DNA in a non-disruptive manner involves the isolation of dPyrTP having a putrescine or spermidine on the 5 position from PS16 or phage-infected cells. If desired, dPyrTP is made from phage DNA and phosphorylated to dPyrTP followed by modification of the polyamine side chain by means of standard nucleophilic reagent NHS-biotin.

Another technique for tagging DNA in a non-disruptive manner involves the addition of glucose to 5-hydroxymethylcytosine (5 HMC) in DNA using T4 phage glycosylating enzymes followed by screening by means of a lectin-based assay.

Still another method for tagging DNA in a non-disruptive manner involves 5-HMC-triphosphate made from the hydrolysis of T4-DNA followed by phosphorylation of the 5HMCMP to 5 HMCTP. 5HMCTP is then incorporated into DNA using polymerase I. Thus, any DNA can be modified to have non-disruptively incorporated therein 5 HMC.

A method for tagging DNA in a mildly disruptive manner involves reacting nucleic acids in the double helical form with alkylating reagents as for example benz(o)pyrene diol epoxide or aflatoxin. Under appropriate conditions the N² group of guanine, the N⁴ group of adenosine or the N⁴ group of cytosine are alkylated. These modified nucleotides can be directly detected with antibodies or can be used as linking arms for the addition of a reporter molecule such as biotin. Preferred embodiments of the present invention are explained in detail in the following enumeration.

1. A nucleotide having the general formula P-S-B-Sig wherein P is the phosphoric acid moiety, S the sugar or monosaccharide moiety, B being the base moiety, the phosphoric acid moiety being attached at the 3' and/or the 5' position of the sugar moiety when said nucleotide is a deoxyribonucleotide and at the 2', 3' and/or 5' position when said nucleotide is a ribonucleotide, said base being a purine or a pyrimidine, said base being attached from the N1 position or the N9 position to the 1' position of the sugar moiety when said base is a pyrimidine or a purine, respectively, and wherein said Sig is a chemical moiety covalently attached to the base B of said nucleotide, said Sig when attached to said base B being capable of signalling itself or makes itself self-detecting or its presence known.

2. A nucleotide in accordance with item 1 wherein said nucleotide is a deoxyribonucleotide.

3. A nucleotide in accordance with item 1 wherein said nucleotide is a ribonucleotide.

4. A nucleotide in accordance with item 1 wherein said chemical moiety Sig is chemically attached to B at the N7 position when B is a 7-deazapurine, at the C5 position when B is a pyrimidine and at the C8 position when B is a purine.

5. A nucleotide in accordance with item 1 wherein Sig is attached to B at a position such that an oligonucleotide or polynucleotide containing said nucleotide is capable of forming a double-stranded ribonucleic acid, a double-stranded deoxyribonucleic acid or a DNA-RNA hybrid, or when said nucleotide is incorporated into said oligonucleotide or polynucleotide.
- 5 6. A nucleotide in accordance with item 1 wherein Sig is attached to B at a position such that said nucleotide is capable of being incorporated into or to form a double-stranded ribonucleic acid, a double-stranded deoxyribonucleic acid or a double-stranded deoxyribonucleic acid-ribonucleic acid hybrid.
7. A nucleotide in accordance with item 1 wherein Sig is attached to B at a position such that when said nucleotide is incorporated into or attached to or associated with a double-stranded deoxyribonucleic acid or double-stranded ribonucleic acid or DNA-RNA hybrid, said chemical moiety Sig is capable of signalling itself or making itself self-detecting or its presence known.
- 10 8. An oligonucleotide or polydeoxyribonucleotide comprising one or more nucleotides in accordance with item 1.
9. An oligonucleotide or polyribonucleotide comprising one or more nucleotides in accordance with item 1.
- 15 10. A nucleotide in accordance with item 1 wherein said Sig is attached to said base B at the C5 position when said base B is a pyrimidine or at the C7 position when said base B is a deazapurin.
11. A nucleotide in accordance with item 1 wherein said Sig chemical moiety is an aliphatic chemical moiety containing at least 4 carbon atoms.
- 20 12. A nucleotide in accordance with item 1 wherein said base B is a pyrimidine and wherein said Sig chemical moiety is attached to the pyrimidine at the N3 position.
13. A nucleotide in accordance with item 1 wherein said Sig chemical moiety is an aliphatic chemical moiety containing at least 3 carbon atoms and at least one double bond.
14. A nucleotide in accordance with item 1 wherein said base B is a pyrimidine and wherein said Sig chemical moiety is attached to the pyrimidine at the C5 position.
- 25 15. A nucleotide in accordance with item 1 wherein said base B is a pyrimidine and wherein said Sig chemical moiety is attached to the pyrimidine at the C6 position.
16. A nucleotide in accordance with item 1 wherein said base B is a purine and wherein said Sig chemical moiety is attached to the purine at the N1 position.
- 30 17. A nucleotide in accordance with item 1 wherein said base B is a purine and wherein said Sig chemical moiety is attached to the purine at the C2 position.
18. A nucleotide in accordance with item 1 wherein said base B is a purine and wherein said Sig chemical moiety is attached to the purine at the N3 position.
19. A nucleotide in accordance with item 1 wherein said base B is a purine and wherein said Sig chemical moiety contains an aromatic or a cycloaliphatic group containing at least six or at least five carbon atoms, respectively.
- 35 20. A nucleotide in accordance with item 1 wherein said base B is a purine and wherein said Sig chemical moiety is attached to the purine at the N7 position.
21. A nucleotide in accordance with item 1 wherein said base B is a purine and wherein said Sig chemical moiety is attached to the purine at the C8 position.
- 40 22. A nucleotide in accordance with item 1 wherein said S sugar is a pentose.
23. A nucleotide in accordance with item 1 wherein said Sig chemical moiety is a polysaccharide or an oligosaccharide.
24. A nucleotide in accordance with item 1 wherein said Sig chemical moiety is a sugar selected from the group consisting of triose or tetrose, or pentose, a hexose, or heptose, and an octose.
- 45 25. A nucleotide in accordance with item 1 wherein said Sig chemical moiety is attached by or includes a glycosidic linkage moiety.
26. A nucleotide in accordance with item 1 wherein said Sig chemical moiety is a hexose moiety.
27. A nucleotide in accordance with item 1 wherein said base B is a 7-deazapurine and wherein said Sig chemical moiety is attached to the 7-deazapurine at the C7 position.
- 50 28. A nucleotide in accordance with item 1 wherein said Sig chemical moiety comprises a component selected from the group consisting of an electron dense component, a magnetic component, an enzyme, a hormone component, a radioactive component, a metal-containing component, a fluorescing component and an antigen or antibody component.
29. A nucleotide in accordance with item 1 wherein said Sig chemical moiety is a sugar residue and wherein said sugar is complexed with or attached to a sugar or polysaccharide binding protein.
30. A nucleotide in accordance with item 29 wherein said protein is a lectin.
31. A nucleotide in accordance with item 30 wherein said lectin is Concanavalin A.

32. A nucleotide in accordance with item 1 wherein said Sig chemical moiety comprises a-mannosyl residue and wherein said a-mannosyl residue is complexed with or bound to Concanavalin A.
33. A nucleotide in accordance with item 1 wherein said Sig chemical moiety comprises N-acetylglucosamine residue and wherein N-acetylglucosamine is complexed with or bound to wheat germ agglutinin.
34. A nucleotide in accordance with item 1 wherein said Sig chemical moiety includes an electron dense component.
35. A nucleotide in accordance with item 30 wherein said lectin comprises ferritin attached thereto.
36. A nucleotide in accordance with item 31 wherein said Concanavalin A is conjugated to ferritin.
37. A nucleotide in accordance with item 1 wherein said Sig chemical moiety includes or comprises a radioactive isotope.
38. A nucleotide in accordance with item 37 wherein said radioactive isotope is radioactive cobalt.
39. A nucleotide in accordance with item 1 wherein said Sig chemical moiety includes or comprises an enzyme.
40. A nucleotide in accordance with item 39 wherein said enzyme is alkaline phosphatase.
41. A nucleotide in accordance with item 39 wherein said enzyme is acid phosphatase.
42. A nucleotide in accordance with item 1 wherein said Sig chemical moiety includes or comprises a fluorescing component attached thereto.
43. A nucleotide in accordance with item 42 wherein said fluorescing component is fluorescein.
44. A nucleotide in accordance with item 1 wherein said Sig chemical moiety includes or comprises a magnetic component associated or attached thereto.
45. A nucleotide in accordance with item 44 wherein said magnetic component comprises a magnetic oxide.
46. A nucleotide in accordance with item 45 wherein said magnetic oxide is ferric oxide.
47. A nucleotide in accordance with item 1 wherein said Sig chemical moiety includes an antigenic or hapten component capable of complexing with an antibody specific to said component.
48. A single-stranded polynucleotide comprising one or more nucleotides in accordance with item 1.
49. A single-stranded polynucleotide in accordance with item 48 wherein said single-stranded polynucleotide is a polydeoxyribonucleotide.
50. A single-stranded polynucleotide in accordance with item 48 wherein said single-stranded polynucleotide is a polyribonucleotide.
51. A double-stranded polynucleotide comprising one or more nucleotides in accordance with item 1.
52. A double-stranded polynucleotide in accordance with item 51 wherein said double-stranded polynucleotide is a double-stranded deoxyribonucleic acid.
53. A double-stranded polynucleotide in accordance with item 51 wherein said double-stranded polynucleotide is a double-stranded ribonucleic acid.
54. A double-stranded polynucleotide in accordance with item 51 wherein said double-stranded polynucleotide is a double-stranded deoxyribonucleic acid-ribonucleic acid hybrid.
55. A polynucleotide comprising one or more nucleotides in accordance with item 1 coupled or attached to a polypeptide, said polypeptide having attached thereto one or more biotin groups.
56. A polynucleotide in accordance with item 55 wherein said polypeptide is a polylysine.
57. A polynucleotide coupled or attached to a polypeptide, said polypeptide having attached thereto one or more streptavidin units.
58. A polynucleotide terminally ligated or attached on at least one end with a polypeptide, said polypeptide having attached thereto one or more enzyme groups.
59. A single stranded polydeoxyribonucleotide coupled or attached to a polypeptide, said polypeptide having attached thereto one or more biotin groups.
60. A single-stranded polyribonucleotide coupled or attached to a polypeptide, said polypeptide having attached thereto one or more biotin groups.
61. A single-stranded polynucleotide comprising at least 12 nucleotides, at least one of said nucleotides being a nucleotide in accordance with item 1.
62. A polynucleotide coupled or attached to a polysaccharide.
63. A polynucleotide in accordance with item 62 wherein said polysaccharide has attached thereto or complexed therewith a plant binding protein.
64. A polynucleotide in accordance with item 63 wherein said protein is Concanavalin A.
65. A nucleotide in accordance with item 1 wherein said base B is cytosine.
66. A nucleotide in accordance with item 1 wherein said base B is uracil.
67. A nucleotide in accordance with item 1 wherein said base B is thymine.

68. A nucleotide in accordance with item 1 wherein said base B is adenine.
 69. A nucleotide in accordance with item 1 wherein said base B is guanine.
 70. A nucleotide in accordance with item 1 wherein said base B is 2-methyladenine.
 71. A nucleotide in accordance with item 1 wherein said base B is 1-methylguanine.
 72. A nucleotide in accordance with item 1 wherein said base B is 5-methylcytosine.
 73. A nucleotide in accordance with item 1 wherein said base B is 5-hydroxymethylcytosine.
 74. A nucleotide in accordance with item 1 wherein said Sig chemical moiety comprises a chelating agent.
 75. A nucleotide in accordance with item 1 wherein said base B is deazaadenine.
 76. A nucleotide in accordance with item 1 wherein said base B is deazaguanine.
 77. A nucleotide in accordance with item 1 wherein said Sig chemical moiety is connected to said base B via a chemical linkage.
 78. A nucleotide in accordance with item 77 wherein said chemical linkage includes an olefinic bond at the α -position relative to base B.
 79. A nucleotide in accordance with item 77 wherein said chemical linkage includes the moiety,

$$-\text{CH}_2 - \text{NH} -$$

 80. A nucleotide in accordance with item 77 wherein said chemical linkage is,

$$-\text{CH} = \text{CH} - \text{CH}_2 - \text{NH} -$$

 81. A nucleotide in accordance with item 1 wherein the chemical moiety is,

$$-\text{CH} = \text{CH} - \text{CH}_2 - \text{O} - \text{CH}_2 - \underset{\text{OH}}{\text{CH}} - \text{CH}_2 - \text{NH} -$$

 82. A nucleotide in accordance with item 1 wherein said chemical linkage is selected from or includes a moiety selected from the group consisting of

$$\text{O}$$

$$-$$

$$- \text{S} -, - \text{C} - \text{O} - \text{and} - \text{O} -$$

 83. A nucleotide in accordance with item 1 wherein said Sig chemical moiety includes or comprises a catalytic metal component.
 84. A nucleotide in accordance with item 39 wherein said enzyme is β -galactosidase.
 85. A nucleotide in accordance with item 39 wherein said enzyme is glucose oxidase.
 86. A nucleotide in accordance with item 39 wherein said enzyme is horseradish peroxidase.
 87. A nucleotide in accordance with item 42 wherein said fluorescing component is fluorescein.
 88. A nucleotide in accordance with item 42 wherein said fluorescing component is rhodamine.
 89. A nucleotide in accordance with item 42 wherein said fluorescing component is dansyl.
 90. A nucleotide in accordance with item 80 wherein said Sig chemical moiety is attached to the $-\text{NH}$ group of said chemical linkage.
 91. A nucleotide in accordance with item 90 wherein said Sig chemical moiety comprises a polysaccharide.
 92. A nucleotide in accordance with item 90 wherein said Sig chemical moiety is biotin.
 93. A nucleotide in accordance with item 90 wherein said Sig chemical moiety is streptavidin.
 94. A nucleotide in accordance with item 82 wherein said Sig chemical moiety attached to said chemical linkage is a monosaccharide.
 95. A nucleotide in accordance with item 82 wherein said Sig chemical moiety attached to said chemical linkage is a streptavidin.
 96. A polynucleotide in accordance with item 63 wherein said protein is a lectin.
 97. A polynucleotide in accordance with item 62 wherein said polynucleotide is terminally ligated to said polysaccharide.
 98. A polyribonucleotide in accordance with item 60 wherein said polyribonucleotide is terminally ligated or attached to said polypeptide.

99. A polydeoxyribonucleotide in accordance with item 59 wherein said polydeoxyribonucleotide is terminally ligated or attached to said polypeptide.

100. A polynucleotide in accordance with item 55 wherein said polynucleotide is terminally ligated or attached to said polypeptide.

5 101. A ribonucleotide having the general formula,

Sig

,

P - S - B

10

wherein P is the phosphoric acid moiety, S the sugar moiety and B the base moiety, the phosphoric acid moiety being attached at the 2', 3' and/or 5' position of the sugar moiety, said base B being attached from the N1 position or the N9 position to the 1' position of the sugar moiety when said base is a pyrimidine or a purine, respectively, and wherein said Sig is a chemical moiety covalently attached to the sugar S, said Sig, when attached to said sugar S, being capable of signalling itself or making itself self-detecting or its presence known.

102. A ribonucleotide in accordance with item 101 wherein said Sig chemical moiety is attached to the C2' position of said sugar moiety.

103. A ribonucleotide in accordance with item 101 wherein said Sig chemical moiety is attached to the C3' position of said sugar moiety.

104. A ribonucleotide in accordance with item 101 wherein said Sig chemical moiety is attached to the S sugar moiety such that an oligoribonucleotide or polyribonucleotide containing said ribonucleotide is capable of forming a double-stranded ribonucleic acid or a DNA-RNA hybrid when said ribonucleotide is incorporated into said oligoribonucleotide or said polyribonucleotide.

105. A polyribonucleotide comprising at least one ribonucleotide in accordance with item 101.

106. A ribonucleotide in accordance with item 101 wherein said base B is a pyrimidine.

107. A ribonucleotide in accordance with item 101 wherein said base B is a purine.

108. A ribonucleotide in accordance with item 101 wherein said base B is uracil.

109. A ribonucleotide in accordance with item 101 wherein said base B is adenine.

110. A ribonucleotide in accordance with item 101 wherein said base B is guanine.

111. A ribonucleotide in accordance with item 101 wherein said base B is cytosine.

112. A ribonucleotide in accordance with item 101 wherein said base B is a 7-deazapurine.

113. A ribonucleotide in accordance with item 101 wherein said Sig chemical moiety is a polysaccharide or an oligosaccharide.

114. A ribonucleotide in accordance with item 101 wherein said Sig chemical moiety is a monosaccharide.

115. A ribonucleotide in accordance with item 101 wherein said Sig chemical moiety is a monosaccharide selected from the group consisting of triose, tetrose, pentose, hexose, heptose and octose.

116. A ribonucleotide in accordance with item 101 wherein said Sig chemical moiety is a sugar residue and wherein said sugar residue is complexed with or attached to a sugar or polysaccharide binding protein.

117. A ribonucleotide in accordance with item 116 wherein said protein is a lectin.

118. A ribonucleotide in accordance with item 117 wherein said lectin is Concanavalin A.

119. A ribonucleotide in accordance with item 101 wherein said Sig chemical moiety includes an electron dense component.

120. A ribonucleotide in accordance with item 119 wherein said electron dense component is ferritin.

121. A ribonucleotide in accordance with item 101 wherein said Sig chemical moiety includes or comprises a radioactive isotope component.

122. A ribonucleotide in accordance with item 121 wherein said radioactive isotope component is radioactive cobalt.

123. A ribonucleotide in accordance with item 101 wherein said Sig chemical moiety comprises a catalytic metal component.

124. A ribonucleotide in accordance with item 101 wherein said Sig chemical moiety includes or comprises an enzyme.

125. A ribonucleotide in accordance with item 124 wherein said enzyme is alkaline phosphatase.

126. A ribonucleotide in accordance with item 124 wherein said enzyme is β -galactosidase.

127. A ribonucleotide in accordance with item 124 wherein said enzyme is glucose oxidase.
 128. A ribonucleotide in accordance with item 124 wherein said enzyme is horseradish peroxidase.
 129. A ribonucleotide in accordance with item 124 wherein said enzyme is ribonuclease.
 130. A ribonucleotide in accordance with item 101 wherein said Sig chemical moiety includes or
 5 comprises a florescing component attached thereto.
 131. A ribonucleotide in accordance with item 130 wherein said fluorescing component is fluorescein.
 132. A ribonucleotide in accordance with item 130 wherein said fluorescing component is rhodamine.
 133. A ribonucleotide in accordance with item 130 wherein said fluorescing component is dansyl.
 134. A ribonucleotide in accordance with item 101 wherein said Sig chemical moiety comprises a
 10 magnetic component associated or attached thereto.
 135. A ribonucleotide in accordance with item 134 wherein said magnetic component comprises a
 magnetic oxide.
 136. A ribonucleotide in accordance with item 101 wherein said Sig chemical moiety includes an
 antigenic or hapten component capable of complexing with an antibody specific to said component.
 137. A single stranded polyribonucleotide comprising one or more ribonucleotides in accordance with
 15 item 101, said single stranded polyribonucleotide comprising at least three said ribonucleotides.
 138. A single stranded polyribonucleotide comprising at least twelve ribonucleotides and containing at
 least one ribonucleotide in accordance with item 101.
 139. A polyribonucleotide coupled or attached to a polypeptide.
 140. A polyribonucleotide in accordance with item 139 wherein said polypeptide is terminally
 20 attached or ligated to said polyribonucleotide.
 141. A nucleotide having the general formula

Sig

25

P - S - B

- 30 wherein P is the phosphoric acid moiety, S the sugar moiety and B the base moiety, the phosphoric acid
 moiety being attached to the 3' and/or the 5' position of the sugar moiety when said nucleotide is a
 deoxyribonucleotide and at the 2', 3' and/or 5' position when said nucleotide is a ribonucleotide, said base B
 being a purine or pyrimidine, said base B being attached from the N1 position or the N9 position to the 1'
 position of the sugar moiety when said base B is a pyrimidine or a purine, respectively, and wherein Sig is
 35 a chemical moiety covalently attached to the phosphoric acid moiety via the chemical linkage

OH

40

- P - O - Sig,

"

O

45

said Sig, when attached to said phosphoric acid moiety P being capable of signalling itself or making itself
 self-detecting or its presence known.

142. A nucleotide having the general formula

P - S - B - Sig

- 50 wherein P is the phosphoric acid moiety, S the sugar and monosaccharide moiety, B being the base
 moiety, the phosphoric acid moiety being attached to the 3' and/or the 5' position of the sugar moiety when
 said nucleotide is deoxyribonucleotide and at the 2', 3' and/or 5' position when said nucleotide is a
 ribonucleotide, said base being a purine or a pyrimidine, said base being attached from the N1 position or
 the N9 position to the C1' position of the sugar moiety when said base is a pyrimidine or a purine,
 55 respectively, and wherein said Sig is a chemical moiety covalently attached to the base B of said
 nucleotide, said Sig being attached to the N⁶ or 6-amino group when said base B is adenine or the N² or 2-

amino group when said base B is guanine or the N⁴ or 4-amino group when said base B is cytosine, said Sig when attached to said base B being capable of signalling itself or makes itself self-detecting or its presence known.

143. A nucleotide having the general formula P-S-B, wherein P is the phosphoric acid moiety, S the sugar or monosaccharide moiety and B the base moiety, said nucleotide having covalently attached to the P or S or B moiety a chemical moiety Sig, said Sig chemical moiety when attached to the P moiety is attached thereto via the chemical linkage,



and when Sig is attached to the S moiety, the S moiety is a ribose group, said chemical moiety Sig when attached to said P, S or B being capable of signalling itself or makes itself self-detecting or its presence known.

144. A nucleotide in accordance with item 143 wherein said nucleotide is capable of being incorporated into to form a double-stranded ribonucleic acid, a double-stranded deoxyribonucleic acid or a double-stranded deoxyribonucleic acid-ribonucleic acid hybrid.

145. A nucleotide in accordance with item 143 wherein when said nucleotide is incorporated into or attached to a double-stranded deoxyribonucleic acid or double-stranded ribonucleic acid or DNA-RNA hybrid, said chemical moiety Sig is capable of signalling itself or making itself self-detecting or its presence known.

146. A single-stranded polynucleotide comprising one or more nucleotides in accordance with item 143.

147. A double-stranded polynucleotide comprising one or more nucleotides in accordance with 143.

148. A single-stranded polydeoxyribonucleotide containing at least 12 nucleotides and comprising one or more nucleotides in accordance with item 143.

149. A nucleotide in accordance with Claim 143 wherein said Sig moiety is attached to the B base moiety through a mono-or oligosaccharide linkage.

150. A nucleotide in accordance with item 143 wherein said Sig moiety is monosaccharide or polysaccharide moiety attached to said B base moiety.

151. A polynucleotide comprising at least one nucleotide in accordance with item 143.

152. A polynucleotide comprising at least one nucleotide in accordance with item 149.

153. A polynucleotide comprising at least one nucleotide in accordance with item 150.

154. A nucleotide in accordance with Claim 143 or polynucleotide comprising at least one nucleotide in accordance with item 143 wherein said Sig chemical moiety comprises an agent for stimulating or inducing the production of interferon.

155. A method of chemotherapy suitable for inhibiting RNA and/or DNA synthesis which comprises administering to an organism capable of and/or functioning for the production or synthesis of DNA and/or RNA an effective DNA and/or RNA synthesis inhibiting amount of a nucleotide in accordance with item 143.

156. A method of chemotherapy suitable for inhibiting RNA and/or DNA synthesis which comprises administering to an organism capable of and/or functioning for the production or synthesis of DNA and/or RNA an effective DNA and/or RNA synthesis inhibiting amount of a nucleotide in accordance with item 1.

157. A method of chemotherapy suitable for inhibiting RNA and/or DNA synthesis which comprises administering to the organism capable of and/or functioning for the production or synthesis of DNA and/or RNA an effective DNA and/or RNA synthesis inhibiting amount of a nucleotide in accordance with item 101.

158. A method of chemotherapy suitable for inhibiting RNA and/or DNA synthesis which comprises administering to the organism capable of and/or functioning for the production or synthesis of DNA and/or RNA an effective DNA and/or RNA synthesis inhibiting amount of a nucleotide in accordance with item 141.

159. A method of chemotherapy suitable for inhibiting RNA and/or DNA synthesis which comprises administering to the organism capable of and/or functioning for the production or synthesis of DNA and/or RNA an effective DNA and/or RNA synthesis inhibiting amount of a nucleotide in accordance with item 142.

160. A method of chemotherapy in accordance with item 155 wherein the B base moiety of said nucleotide is glycosylated.

161. A method of chemotherapy in accordance with item 155 wherein the Sig chemical moiety of said nucleotide comprises an anti-tumor or cytotoxic agent.

5 162. A method for the stimulation or induction of cells for the production of lymphokines, cytokinins and/or interferon which comprises introducing into or bringing into contact with cells capable of and/or functioning for the production of said lymphokines, cytokinins and/or interferon an effective lymphokine, cytokinin and/or interferon stimulating and production inducing amount of a nucleotide in accordance with item 143.

10 163. A method for the stimulation or induction of cells for the production of lymphokines, cytokinins and/or interferon which comprises introducing into or bringing into contact with cells capable of and/or functioning for the production of said lymphokines, cytokinins and/or interferon an effective lymphokine, cytokinin and/or interferon stimulating and production inducing amount of a nucleotide in accordance with item 1.

15 164. A method for the stimulation or induction of cells for the production of lymphokines, cytokinins and/or interferon which comprises introducing into or bringing into contact with cells capable of and/or functioning for the production of said lymphokines, cytokinins and/or interferon an effective lymphokine, cytokinin and/or interferon stimulating and production inducing amount of a nucleotide in accordance with item 101.

20 165. A method for the stimulation or induction of cells for the production of lymphokines, cytokinins and/or interferon which comprises introducing into or bringing into contact with cells capable of and/or functioning for the production of said lymphokines, cytokinins and/or interferon an effective lymphokine, cytokinin and/or interferon stimulating and production inducing amount of a nucleotide in accordance with item 141.

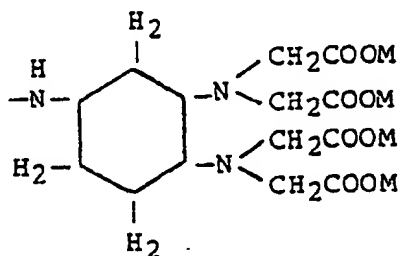
25 166. A method for the stimulation or induction of cells for the production of lymphokines, cytokinins and/or interferon which comprises introducing into or bringing into contact with cells capable of and/or functioning for the production of said lymphokines, cytokinins and/or interferon an effective lymphokine, cytokinin and/or interferon stimulating and production inducing amount of a nucleotide in accordance with item 142.

30 167. A polynucleotide comprising one or more nucleotides in accordance with item 1 or item 101 or item 141 or item 142 or item 143, coupled or attached to a polypeptide, said polypeptide having attached thereto one or more Sig chemical moieties, said Sig when attached to said polypeptide being capable of signalling itself or making itself self-detecting or its presence known.

35 168. A polynucleotide coupled or attached to a polypeptide, said polypeptide having attached thereto one or more Sig chemical moieties, said Sig chemical moieties when attached to said polypeptide being capable of signalling itself or making itself self-detecting or making its presence known.

169. A nucleotide in accordance with item 1 or item 101 or item 141 or item 142 or item 143 wherein said Sig chemical moiety includes a chelating agent.

40 170. A nucleotide in accordance with item 169 wherein said chelating agent includes the chemical moiety



wherein M is H or a substitutable metal.

171. A nucleotide in accordance with item 170 wherein said metal is magnesium or a metal replaceable by cobalt.

55 172. A polynucleotide containing one or more nucleotides in accordance with item 1 or item 101 or item 141 or item 142 or item 143 wherein said Sig chemical moiety includes a chelating agent.

173. A polynucleotide containing a nucleotide in accordance with item 1 or item 101 or item 141 or item 142 or item 143 wherein said Sig chemical moiety includes a chelating agent in accordance with Claim 170.

174. A nucleotide in accordance with item 170 wherein said metal is a catalytically active metal.

175. A nucleotide in accordance with item 170 wherein said metal is a heavy metal.

176. A nucleotide in accordance with item 170 wherein said metal is radioactive cobalt.

177. A nucleotide in accordance with item 170 wherein said metal is magnesium.

178. A ribonucleotide in accordance with item 1 or item 101 or item 141 or item 142 or item 143 wherein said Sig chemical moiety includes a chelating agent.

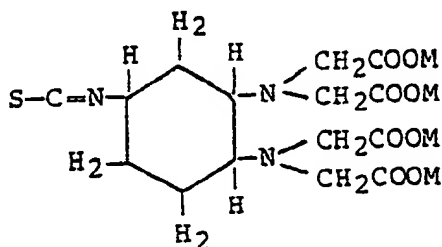
179. A deoxyribonucleotide in accordance with item 1 or item 101 or item 141 or item 142 or item 143 wherein said Sig chemical moiety includes a chelating agent.

180. A nucleotide in accordance with item 170 wherein said metal M is a radioactive isotope.

181. A nucleotide in accordance with item 170 wherein said metal is platinum.

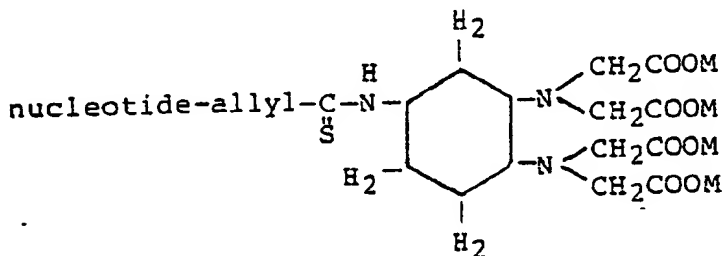
182. A nucleotide in accordance with item 170 wherein said M is hydrogen or a substitutable metal or a radioactive element.

183. The compound



wherein M is hydrogen or a metal.

184. The compound

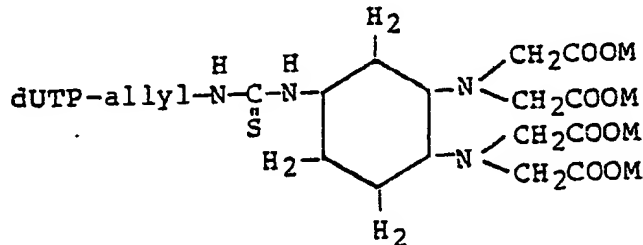


wherein M is hydrogen or a metal.

185. A compound in accordance with item 184 wherein said nucleotide is a deoxyribonucleotide.

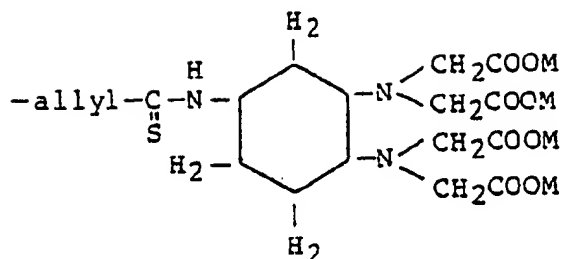
186. A compound in accordance with item 184 wherein said nucleotide is a ribonucleotide.

187. The compound



wherein M is hydrogen or a metal.

188. A nucleotide in accordance with items 1, 101, 141, 142 or 143, wherein the Sig chemical moiety comprises the chemical moiety



189. A polynucleotide containing one or more nucleotides in accordance with item 188.

190. A polynucleotide in accordance with item 189 wherein said polynucleotide is a single-stranded deoxyribonucleotide or a single-stranded ribonucleotide or a double-stranded DNA, RNA or DNA-RNA hybrid.

191. A nucleotide in accordance with item 143 wherein said Sig moiety comprises a saccharide component, a protein component capable of binding to said saccharide component and a glycosylated enzyme component capable of binding to said protein component.

192. A nucleotide in accordance with item 191 wherein said saccharide component is a monosaccharide.

193. A nucleotide in accordance with item 191 wherein said saccharide component is an oligosaccharide.

194. A nucleotide in accordance with item 191 wherein said saccharide component is a polysaccharide.

195. A nucleotide in accordance with item 191 wherein said protein component is a lectin.

196. A nucleotide in accordance with item 191 wherein said lectin is a plant lectin selected from the group consisting of Concanavalin A, LCH lentil lectin, PSA pea lectin and BFA Vicia Faba lectin.

197. A nucleotide in accordance with item 191 wherein said enzyme component is an enzyme selected from the group consisting of alkaline phosphatase, acid phosphatase and horseradish peroxidase.

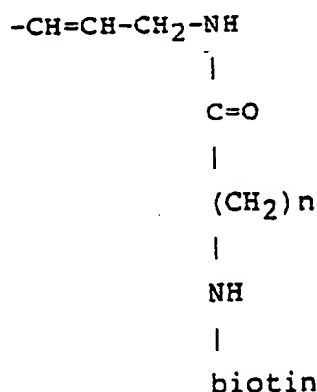
198. An amino acid or polypeptide comprising a Sig moiety attached thereto.

199. An amino acid or polypeptide in accordance with item 198 wherein said Sig moiety comprises a saccharide component.

200. A monosaccharide or a polysaccharide comprising a Sig moiety attached thereto.

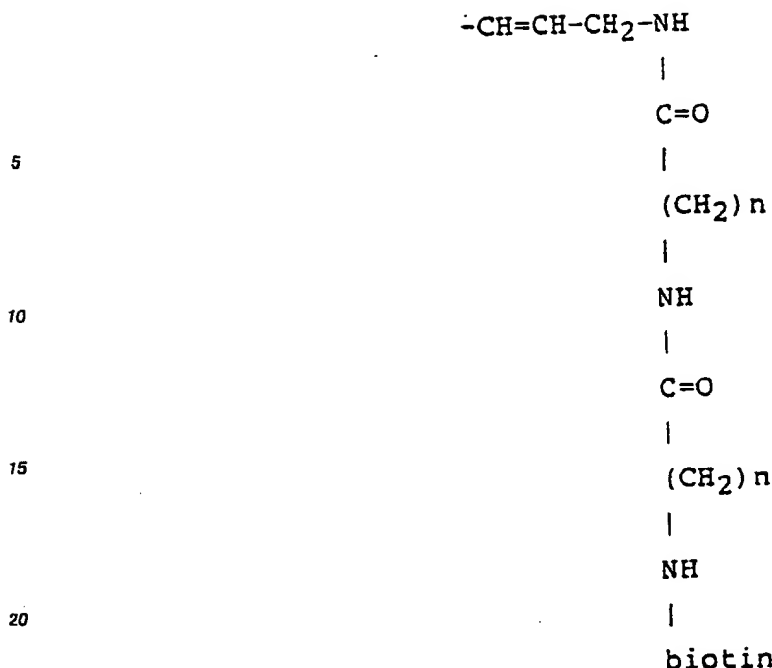
201. A monosaccharide or a polysaccharide in accordance with item 200 wherein said Sig moiety comprises a chelating agent.

202. A nucleotide in accordance with item 143 wherein said Sig moiety comprises the linkage



wherein n is an integer having a value in the range 2-10.

203. A nucleotide in accordance with item 143 wherein said Sig moiety comprises the linkage



wherein n is an integer having a value in the range 2-10.

204. A method of detecting a first compound which includes a nucleotide in accordance with item 1 as part of said first compound, which comprises contacting said first compound with a second compound capable of forming a complex therewith under suitable conditions so as to form said complex, said complex comprising said first compound and said second compound and detecting said complex.

205. A method in accordance with item 204 wherein said second compound is a polynucleotide.

206. A method of detecting a first compound which includes a ribonucleotide in accordance with item 101 as part of said first compound, which comprises contacting said first compound with a second compound capable of forming a complex therewith under conditions so as to form said complex and detecting said complex.

207. A method of detecting a first compound which includes a nucleotide in accordance with item 141 as part of said first compound which comprises contacting said first compound with a second compound capable of forming a complex therewith under suitable conditions so as to form said complex and detecting said complex.

208. A method of detecting a first compound which includes a nucleotide in accordance with item 142 as part of said first compound which comprises contacting said first compound with a second compound capable of forming a complex therewith under suitable conditions so as to form said complex and contacting said complex.

209. A method of detecting a first compound which includes a nucleotide in accordance with item 143 as part of said first compound which comprises contacting said first compound with a second compound capable of forming a complex therewith under suitable conditions so as to form said complex and detecting said complex.

210. A method of determining the presence of a deoxyribonucleic or ribonucleic acid molecule which comprises forming a double-stranded hybrid polynucleotide duplex which includes a single strand of deoxyribonucleic acid or ribonucleic acid corresponding to or derived from said deoxyribonucleic or ribonucleic acid molecule and a nucleotide in accordance with item 1 and detecting said duplex.

211. A method of determining the presence of a deoxyribonucleic or ribonucleic acid molecule which comprises forming a double-stranded hybrid polynucleotide duplex which includes a single strand of deoxyribonucleic acid or ribonucleic acid corresponding to or derived from said deoxyribonucleic or ribonucleic acid molecule and a ribonucleotide in accordance with item 101 and detecting said duplex.

212. A method of determining the presence of a deoxyribonucleic or ribonucleic acid molecule which comprises forming a double-stranded hybrid polynucleotide duplex which includes a single strand of deoxyribonucleic acid or ribonucleic acid corresponding to or derived from said deoxyribonucleic or ribonucleic acid molecule and a nucleotide in accordance with item 141 and detecting said duplex.

213. A method of determining the presence of a deoxyribonucleic or ribonucleic acid molecule which comprises forming a double-stranded hybrid polynucleotide duplex which includes a single strand of deoxyribonucleic acid or ribonucleic acid corresponding to or derived from said deoxyribonucleic or ribonucleic acid molecule and a nucleotide in accordance with item 142 and detecting said duplex.

5 214. A method of determining the presence of a deoxyribonucleic or ribonucleic acid molecule which comprises forming a double-stranded hybrid polynucleotide duplex which includes a single strand of deoxyribonucleic acid or ribonucleic acid corresponding to or derived from said deoxyribonucleic or ribonucleic acid molecule and a nucleotide in accordance with item 143 and detecting said duplex.

215. A method of detecting the presence of a nucleic acid-containing etiological agent in a subject
10 which comprises obtaining a suitable sample from said subject, detecting the presence in said sample of a deoxyribonucleic or ribonucleic acid naturally associated with said etiological agent by forming under suitable conditions a double-stranded polynucleotide duplex which includes a compound in accordance with item 1 and a single strand of deoxyribonucleic or ribonucleic acid corresponding to or derived from said deoxyribonucleic or ribonucleic acid which is naturally associated with said etiological agent under suitable
15 conditions and detecting the presence of said double-stranded polynucleotide duplex.

216. A method of detecting the presence of a nucleic acid-containing etiological agent in a subject which comprises obtaining a suitable sample from said subject, detecting the presence in said sample of a deoxyribonucleic or ribonucleic acid naturally associated with said etiological agent by forming under suitable conditions a double-stranded polynucleotide duplex which includes a compound in accordance with
20 item 101 and a single strand of deoxyribonucleic or ribonucleic acid corresponding to or derived from said deoxyribonucleic or ribonucleic acid which is naturally associated with said etiological agent under suitable conditions and detecting the presence of said double-stranded polynucleotide duplex.

217. A method of detecting the presence of a nucleic acid-containing etiological agent in a subject which comprises obtaining a suitable sample from said subject, detecting the presence in said sample of a deoxyribonucleic or ribonucleic acid naturally associated with said etiological agent by forming under
25 suitable conditions a double-stranded polynucleotide duplex which includes a compound in accordance with item 141 and a single strand of deoxyribonucleic or ribonucleic acid corresponding to or derived from said deoxyribonucleic or ribonucleic acid which is naturally associated with said etiological agent under suitable conditions and detecting the presence of said double-stranded polynucleotide duplex.

30 218. A method of detecting the presence of a nucleic acid containing etiological agent in a subject which comprises obtaining a suitable sample from said subject, detecting the presence in said sample of a deoxyribonucleic or ribonucleic acid naturally associated with said etiological agent by forming under suitable conditions a double-stranded polynucleotide duplex which includes a compound in accordance with item 142 and a single strand of deoxyribonucleic or ribonucleic acid corresponding to or derived from said
35 deoxyribonucleic or ribonucleic acid which is naturally associated with said etiological agent under suitable conditions and detecting the presence of said double-stranded polynucleotide duplex.

219. A method of detecting the presence of a nucleic acid-containing etiological agent in a subject which comprises obtaining a suitable sample from said subject, detecting the presence in said sample of a deoxyribonucleic or ribonucleic acid naturally associated with said etiological agent by forming under
40 suitable conditions a double-stranded polynucleotide duplex which includes a compound in accordance with item 143 and a single strand of deoxyribonucleic or ribonucleic acid corresponding to or derived from said deoxyribonucleic or ribonucleic acid which is naturally associated with said etiological agent under suitable conditions and detecting the presence of said double-stranded polynucleotide duplex.

220. A method in accordance with item 215 wherein said nucleic acid-containing etiological agent is a
45 bacterium, a virus or a fungus.

221. A method of testing a bacterium to determine its resistance to an antibiotic which comprises preparing a polynucleotide complementary to the deoxyribonucleic acid gene sequence of said bacterium which confers resistance of said bacterium to said antibiotic and which includes a nucleotide in accordance with item 1 incorporated therein, contacting said polynucleotide under suitable conditions with a deoxy-
50 yribonucleic acid obtained from said bacterium so as to form a double-stranded hybrid duplex and detecting the presence of said duplex, the detection of said duplex indicating resistance of said bacterium to said antibiotic and the absence of said duplex indicating the susceptibility of said bacterium to an antibiotic.

222. A method of testing a bacterium to determine its resistance to an antibiotic which comprises
55 preparing a polynucleotide complementary to the deoxyribonucleic acid gene sequence of said bacterium which confers resistance of said bacterium to said antibiotic and which includes a nucleotide in accordance with item 101 incorporated therein, contacting said polynucleotide under suitable conditions with a deoxyribonucleic acid obtained from said bacterium so as to form a double-stranded hybrid duplex and

detecting the presence of said duplex, the detection of said duplex indicating resistance of said bacterium to said antibiotic and the absence of said duplex indicating the susceptibility of said bacterium to an antibiotic.

223. A method of testing a bacterium to determine its resistance to an antibiotic which comprises
 5 preparing a polynucleotide complementary to the deoxyribonucleic acid gene sequence of said bacterium which confers resistance of said bacterium to said antibiotic and which includes a nucleotide in accordance with item 141 incorporated therein, contacting said polynucleotide under suitable conditions with a deoxyribonucleic acid obtained from said bacterium so as to form a double-stranded hybrid duplex and
 10 detecting the presence of said duplex, the detection of said duplex indicating resistance of said bacterium to said antibiotic and the absence of said duplex indicating the susceptibility of said bacterium to an antibiotic.

224. A method of testing a bacterium to determine its resistance to an antibiotic which comprises
 preparing a polynucleotide complementary to the deoxyribonucleic acid gene sequence of said bacterium which confers resistance of said bacterium to said antibiotic and which includes a nucleotide in accordance
 15 with (item 142 incorporated therein, contacting said polynucleotide under suitable conditions with a deoxyribonucleic acid obtained from said bacterium so as to form a double-stranded hybrid duplex and detecting the presence of said duplex, the detection of said duplex indicating resistance of said bacterium to said antibiotic and the absence of said duplex indicating the susceptibility of said bacterium to an antibiotic.

225. A method of testing a bacterium to determine its resistance to an antibiotic which comprises
 20 preparing a polynucleotide complementary to the deoxyribonucleic acid gene sequence of said bacterium which confers resistance of said bacterium to said antibiotic and which includes a nucleotide in accordance with item 143 incorporated therein, contacting said polynucleotide under suitable conditions with a deoxyribonucleic acid obtained from said bacterium so as to form a double-stranded hybrid duplex and
 25 detecting the presence of said duplex, the detection of said duplex indicating resistance of said bacterium to said antibiotic and the absence of said duplex indicating the susceptibility of said bacterium to an antibiotic.

226. A method in accordance with items 221, 222, 223, 224 or 225 wherein said bacterium is selected from the group consisting of Streptococcus pyogenes and Neisseria meningitidis and said antibiotic
 30 a penicillin.

227. A method in accordance with item 221 wherein said bacterium is selected from the group consisting of Staphylococcus aureus, Candida albicans, Pseudomonas aeruginosa, Streptococcus pyogenes and Neisseria gonorrhoeae and said antibiotic a tetracycline.

228. A method in accordance with item 221 wherein said bacterium is Mycobacterium tuberculosis
 35 and said antibiotic is an amino glycoside.

229. A method of diagnosing a genetic disorder in a subject which comprises preparing a polynucleotide complementary to the deoxyribonucleic acid gene sequence of said subject which is associated with said genetic disorder and includes a compound in accordance with item 1 incorporated therein, contacting said polynucleotide under suitable conditions with deoxyribonucleic acid obtained from said
 40 subject so as to form a double-stranded hybrid duplex and detecting the presence of said hybrid duplex, the presence or absence of said hybrid duplex indicating the presence or absence of said genetic disorder.

230. A method of diagnosing a genetic disorder in a subject which comprises preparing a polynucleotide complementary to the deoxyribonucleic acid gene sequence of said subject which is associated with said genetic disorder and includes a compound in accordance with item 101 incorporated therein,
 45 contacting said polynucleotide under suitable conditions with deoxyribonucleic acid obtained from said subject so as to form a double-stranded hybrid duplex and detecting the presence of said hybrid duplex, the presence or absence of said hybrid duplex indicating the presence or absence of said genetic disorder.

231. A method of diagnosing a genetic disorder in a subject which comprises preparing a polynucleotide complementary to the deoxyribonucleic acid gene sequence of said subject which is associated
 50 with said genetic disorder and includes a compound in accordance with item 141 incorporated therein, contacting said polynucleotide under suitable conditions with deoxyribonucleic acid obtained from said subject so as to form a double-stranded hybrid duplex and detecting the presence of said hybrid duplex, the presence or absence of said hybrid duplex indicating the presence or absence of said genetic disorder.

232. A method of diagnosing a genetic disorder in a subject which comprises preparing a polynucleotide complementary to the deoxyribonucleic acid gene sequence of said subject which is associated
 55 with said genetic disorder and includes a compound in accordance with item 142 incorporated therein,

contacting said polynucleotide under suitable conditions with deoxyribonucleic acid obtained from said subject so as to form a double-stranded hybrid duplex and detecting the presence of said hybrid duplex, the presence or absence of said hybrid duplex indicating the presence or absence of said genetic disorder.

233. A method of diagnosing a genetic disorder in a subject which comprises preparing a polynucleotide complementary to the deoxyribonucleotide acid gene sequence of said subject which is associated with said genetic disorder and includes a compound in accordance with item 143 incorporated therein, contacting said polynucleotide under suitable conditions with deoxyribonucleic acid obtained from said subject so as to form a double-stranded hybrid duplex and detecting the presence of said hybrid duplex, the presence or absence of said hybrid duplex indicating the presence or absence of said genetic disorder.

234. A method of diagnosing thalassemia in a human subject which comprises preparing a polynucleotide complementary to the deoxyribonucleic acid gene sequence which is absent in β -minus-thalassemia subjects and includes a nucleotide in accordance with item 1, contacting said polynucleotide under suitable conditions with deoxyribonucleic acid obtained from said subject so as to form a double-stranded hybrid duplex and determining the presence of said duplex, the absence of said duplex indicating the presence of β -minus-thalassemia.

235. A method of diagnosing thalassemia in a human subject which comprises preparing a polynucleotide complementary to the deoxyribonucleic acid gene sequence which is absent in β -minus-thalassemia subjects and includes a nucleotide in accordance with item 101, contacting said polynucleotide under suitable conditions with deoxyribonucleic acid obtained from said subject so as to form a double-stranded hybrid duplex and determining the presence of said duplex, the absence of said duplex indicating the presence of β -minus-thalassemia.

236. A method of diagnosing thalassemia in a human subject which comprises preparing a polynucleotide complementary to the deoxyribonucleic acid gene sequence which is absent in β -minus-thalassemia subjects and includes a nucleotide in accordance with item 141, contacting said polynucleotide under suitable conditions with deoxyribonucleic acid obtained from said subject so as to form a double-stranded hybrid duplex and determining the presence of said duplex, the absence of said duplex indicating the presence of β -minus-thalassemia.

237. A method of diagnosing thalassemia in a human subject which comprises preparing a polynucleotide complementary to the deoxyribonucleic acid gene sequence which is absent in β -minus-thalassemia subjects and includes a nucleotide in accordance with item 142, contacting said polynucleotide under suitable conditions with deoxyribonucleic acid obtained from said subject so as to form a double-stranded hybrid duplex and determining the presence of said duplex, the absence of said duplex indicating the presence of β -minus-thalassemia.

238. A method of diagnosing thalassemia in a human subject which comprises preparing a polynucleotide complementary to the deoxyribonucleic acid gene sequence which is absent in β -minus-thalassemia subjects and includes a nucleotide in accordance with item 143, contacting said polynucleotide under suitable conditions with deoxyribonucleic acid obtained from said subject so as to form a double-stranded hybrid duplex and determining the presence of said duplex, the absence of said duplex indicating the presence of β -minus-thalassemia.

239. A method of chromosomal karyotyping which comprises preparing a series of modified polynucleotides corresponding to a series of defined genetic sequences located on chromosomes, said polynucleotides including one or more compounds in accordance with item 1, contacting said polynucleotides with deoxyribonucleic acid of or obtained from chromosomes so as to form hybrid duplexes and detecting said duplexes, thereby determining the location of said duplexes on said chromosomes and the location of said genetic sequences on said chromosomes.

240. A method of chromosomal karyotyping which comprises preparing a series of modified polynucleotides corresponding to a series of defined genetic sequences located on chromosomes, said polynucleotides including one or more compounds in accordance with item 101, contacting said polynucleotides with deoxyribonucleic acid of or obtained from chromosomes so as to form hybrid duplexes and detecting said duplexes, thereby determining the location of said duplexes on said chromosomes and the location of said genetic sequences on said chromosomes.

241. A method of chromosomal karyotyping which comprises preparing a series of modified polynucleotides corresponding to a series of defined genetic sequences located on chromosomes, said polynucleotides including one or more compounds in accordance with item 141 contacting said polynucleotides with deoxyribonucleic acid of or obtained from chromosomes so as to form hybrid duplexes and detecting said duplexes, thereby determining the location of said duplexes on said chromosomes and the location of said genetic sequences on said chromosomes.

242. A method of chromosomal karyotyping which comprises preparing a series of modified polynucleotides corresponding to a series of defined genetic sequences located on chromosomes, said polynucleotides including one or more compounds in accordance with item 142, contacting said polynucleotides with deoxyribonucleic acid of or obtained from chromosomes so as to form hybrid duplexes and
 5 detecting said duplexes, thereby determining the location of said duplexes on said chromosomes and the location of said genetic sequences on said chromosomes.

243. A method of chromosomal karyotyping which comprises preparing a series of modified polynucleotides corresponding to a series of defined genetic sequences located on chromosomes, said polynucleotides including one or more compounds in accordance with item 143, contacting said polynucleotides with deoxyribonucleic acid of or obtained from chromosomes so as to form hybrid duplexes and
 10 detecting said duplexes, thereby determining the location of said duplexes on said chromosomes and the location of said genetic sequences on said chromosomes.

244. A method of identifying or locating hormone receptor sites on the surface of cells which comprises binding a compound in accordance with items 1, 101, 141, 142 or 143 to said sites under
 15 suitable conditions permitting binding of said compound to said receptor sites and detecting said compounds bound to said receptor sites.

245. A method of tumor or cancer cell identification or detection which comprises identifying or detecting malignant cells by detecting abnormal receptor sites associated therewith in accordance with item
 244.

246. A method of diagnosing a tumor cell which comprises preparing a polynucleotide which is complementary to a messenger ribonucleic acid synthesized from a deoxyribonucleic acid gene sequence associated with the production of a polypeptide diagnostic for or identifiable with said tumor cell or which is complementary to said deoxyribonucleic acid gene sequence and which includes a compound in accordance with items 1, 101, 141, 142 or 143.

25 introducing said polynucleotide into contact with said cell under suitable conditions so as to permit said polynucleotide to hybridize with said deoxyribonucleic acid gene sequence or said messenger ribonucleic acid and detecting the formation of a resulting formed hybrid containing said polynucleotide.

247. A diagnostic kit useful for determining the presence of a nucleic acid-containing organism or the like which comprises a polynucleotide which includes in its make-up a compound selected from the
 30 compounds of items 1, 101, 141, 142 or 143, and which is complementary to all or an identifiable, distinct or unique portion of the nucleic acid contained in said organism and means for detecting or expressing the presence or absence of a resulting formed hybrid between said polynucleotide and said nucleic acid of said organism when said polynucleotide is brought into contact with the nucleic acid of said organism or the like under hybrid forming conditions.

35 248. A method of determining or identifying or diagnosing a first compound capable of complexing with or binding with a first component of a second compound, said second compound comprising said first component and a second component, said second component being attached to or complexed with said first component, which comprises bringing said first compound into contact with said second compound whereby said first component of said second compound complexes with said first compound to form a third
 40 compound comprising said first compound and said second compound and contacting said resulting third compound with a fourth compound capable of binding with or attaching to said second component of said second compound making up said third compound.

249. A method in accordance with item 248 wherein multiple amounts of said second compound are separately brought into contact with said first compound or vice versa.

45 250. A method in accordance with item 248 wherein said first compound is a molecule with a receptor site that specifically binds to a second molecule, wherein said first component of said second compound is capable of specifically binding with said receptor site of said first compound, wherein said second component of said second compound is a sugar, oligosaccharide or polysaccharide and wherein said fourth compound is a polypeptide.

50 251. A method of determining or identifying or diagnosing a first compound capable of complexing with or binding with an amino acid, peptide or protein which comprises bringing said first compound into contact with a second compound, said second compound comprising an amino acid, peptide or protein attached to or complexed with a sugar, or oligosaccharide or polysaccharide, whereupon said second
 55 compound complexes with or becomes attached to said first compound to form a third compound comprising said first compound and said second compound and contacting said resulting third compound with a protein or amino acid or peptide capable of binding with or attaching to the sugar or oligosaccharide moiety of said second compound making up said third compound.

252. A method of determining or identifying or diagnosing a first compound capable of complexing or binding with a first component of a second compound, said second compound comprising said first component, a second component attached to or complexed with said first component, said second compound being a chelating agent, and a third component, said third component being an ion chelated or fixed to said second component, which comprises bringing said first compound into contact with said second compound whereby said first component of said compound complexes with said first compound to form a third compound comprising said first compound and said second compound.

253. A method in accordance with item 252 wherein said third compound is brought into contact with or reacted with a fourth compound under conditions such that said third component of said second compound making up said third compound catalyzes a discernible or detectable reaction involving or otherwise interacting with said fourth compound.

254. A method of chemotherapy involving the delivery of a therapeutic or cytotoxic agent to a selected receptor site of an organism or human subject which comprises bringing a first compound comprising a first component, a second component and a third component into contact with said receptor site, said first component being capable of attaching to or complexing with said receptor site, said second component being attached to said first component and said third component comprising a therapeutic or cytotoxic agent attached to said second component whereby upon contacting said receptor site with said first compound, said therapeutic or cytotoxic agent brought into contact with or delivered to said receptor site, said second component being a sugar, oligosaccharide or polypeptide and said third component containing said therapeutic or cytotoxic agent additionally comprising an amino acid or peptide or protein attached to or fixed to said second component.

255. A method of determining or identifying or diagnosing in an organism, cellular material or tissue a first compound comprising a receptor molecule with a receptor site that specifically binds to a second molecule which comprises bringing said organism, material or tissue containing said receptor molecule into contact with a second compound, said second compound comprising a first component capable of complexing with or binding with said receptor molecule, said second compound also comprising a second component, said second component being attached to or complexed with said first component, said first component of said second compound when in contact with said receptor molecule complexes with said receptor molecule to form a third compound comprising said first compound and said second compound and contacting said third compound with a fourth compound capable of binding with or attaching to said second component of said second compound making up said third compound, said first component of said second compound being selected from group A consisting of an amino acid, a peptide, or a protein or from group B consisting of a sugar, oligosaccharide or polysaccharide or from group C consisting of a purine, pyrimidine, nucleoside, nucleotide, oligonucleotide or polynucleotide, said second component of said second compound being a sugar, oligosaccharide or polysaccharide and said fourth compound is selected from the group consisting of a peptide or polypeptide, a lectin, or an antibody.

256. A nucleotide in accordance with item 1 wherein said Sig chemical moiety covalently attached to the base B of said nucleotide includes a coenzyme.

257. A nucleotide in accordance with item 256 wherein said coenzyme is selected from the group consisting of thiamine pyrophosphate, flavine mononucleotide, flavine adenine dinucleotide, nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide, nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide phosphate, coenzyme A, pyridoxyl phosphate, biotin, tetrahydrofolic acid, coenzyme B₁₂, lipoic acid and ascorbic acid.

258. A method of detecting a first compound which includes in its make-up a nucleotide in accordance with item 256 which comprises contacting said first compound with an apoenzyme corresponding to said coenzyme.

259. A method in accordance with item 258 wherein said coenzyme is flavine adenine dinucleotide (FAD) and wherein said apoenzyme is flavine adenine dinucleotide reductase.

260. A ribonucleotide in accordance with item 101 wherein said Sig chemical moiety includes a coenzyme.

261. A nucleotide in accordance with item 141 wherein said Sig chemical moiety includes a coenzyme.

262. A nucleotide in accordance with item 142 wherein said Sig chemical moiety includes a coenzyme.

263. A nucleotide in accordance with item 143 wherein said Sig chemical moiety includes a coenzyme.

264. A method of detecting a first compound which includes in its make-up a nucleotide in accordance with item 263 which comprises contacting said first compound with an apoenzyme corresponding to said coenzyme.

265. An amino acid or polypeptide in accordance with item 198, wherein said Sig moiety attached to said amino acid or polypeptide includes a coenzyme.

266. An amino acid or polypeptide in accordance with item 265, wherein said coenzyme is selected from the group consisting of thiamine pyrophosphate, flavine mononucleotide, flavine adenine dinucleotide, 5 nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide, nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide phosphate, coenzyme A, pyridoxyl phosphate, biotin, tetrahydrofolic acid, coenzyme B₁₂, lipoic acid and ascorbic acid.

267. A method of detecting a first compound which includes in its make-up an amino acid or polypeptide in accordance with item 265, which comprises contacting said first compound with an apoenzyme corresponding to said coenzyme.

10 268. A method in accordance with item 267, wherein said coenzyme is flavin adenine dinucleotide (FAD) and wherein said apoenzyme is flavine adenine dinucleotide reductase.

269. A monosaccharide or polysaccharide in accordance with item 200, wherein said Sig moiety attached to said monosaccharide or said polysaccharide includes a coenzyme.

270. A monosaccharide or polysaccharide in accordance with item 269, wherein said coenzyme is 15 selected from a group consisting of thiamine pyrophosphate, flavine mononucleotide, flavine adenine dinucleotide, nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide, nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide phosphate, coenzyme A, pyridoxyl phosphate, biotin, tetrahydrofolic acid, coenzyme B₁₂, lipoic acid and ascorbic acid.

271. A method of detecting a first compound which includes in its make-up a monosaccharide or polysaccharide in accordance with item 269, which comprises contacting said first compound with an 20 apoenzyme corresponding to said coenzyme.

272. A method in accordance with item 271, wherein said coenzyme is flavine adenine dinucleotide (FAD) and wherein said apoenzyme is flavine adenine dinucleotide reductase.

273. A nucleotide in accordance with item 1, wherein said Sig component comprises a radioactive component.

25 274. A nucleotide in accordance with item 273, wherein said radioactive component comprises radioactive labeled avidin attached thereto.

275. A nucleotide in accordance with item 273, wherein said Sig component comprises radioactive labeled streptoavidin attached to biotin.

276. A single-stranded polynucleotide comprising one or more nucleotides in accordance with item 1, 30 wherein said Sig component is radioactive.

277. A double-stranded polynucleotide comprising one or more nucleotides in accordance with item 1 and wherein said Sig component thereof is radioactive.

278. A nucleotide in accordance with item 101, wherein said Sig component comprises a radioactive moiety.

35 279. A polynucleotide comprising a ribonucleotide in accordance with item 101 wherein said Sig moiety is radioactively labeled.

280. A nucleotide in accordance with item 141, wherein said Sig moiety thereof is radioactively labeled.

281. A polynucleotide comprising one or more nucleotides in accordance with item 141 wherein said 40 Sig moiety thereof is radioactively labeled.

282. A nucleotide in accordance with item 142, wherein said Sig moiety thereof is radioactively labeled.

283. A polynucleotide comprising one or more nucleotides in accordance with item 142 wherein said Sig moiety thereof is radioactively labeled.

45 284. A nucleotide in accordance with item 143, wherein said Sig moiety is radioactively labeled.

285. A polynucleotide comprising one or more nucleotides in accordance with item 143 wherein said Sig moiety thereof is radioactively labeled.

286. A single-stranded polynucleotide comprising one or more nucleotides in accordance with item 143 wherein said Sig component thereof is radioactively labeled.

50 287. A single-stranded polydeoxyribonucleotide in accordance with item 148, wherein said Sig component thereof is radioactively labeled.

288. A polynucleotide containing one or more nucleotides in accordance with item 1, or item 101, or item 141, or item 142, or item 143 wherein said Sig moiety is radioactively labeled.

55 289. A polynucleotide containing one or more nucleotides in accordance with item 1 or item 101, or item 141, or item 142, or item 143, wherein said Sig chemical moiety comprises biotin attached to radioactively labeled avidin.

290. A polynucleotide containing one or more nucleotides in accordance with item 1 or item 101, or item 141, or item 142, or item 143, wherein said Sig chemical moiety comprises biotin attached to radioactively labeled strepavidin.

291. A polynucleotide containing one or more nucleotides in accordance with item 1, or item 101, or item 141, or item 142, or item 143, wherein said Sig chemical moiety comprises biotin and radioactively labeled avidin or strepavidin attached to said biotin.

292. A method of determining the presence of a polynucleotide, comprising one or more nucleotides in accordance with item 1, or item 101, or item 141, or item 142, or item 143, wherein said Sig component of said nucleotide comprises biotin which comprises bringing said polynucleotide into contact with radioactive labeled avidin to bind said biotin to said radioactive labeled avidin and determining the presence of the biotin bound to said radioactive labeled avidin by detecting the radioactivity of the biotin-bound radioactive avidin.

293. A method of determining the presence of a polynucleotide, comprising one or more nucleotides in accordance with item 1, or item 101, or item 141, or item 142, or item 143, wherein said Sig component of said nucleotide comprises biotin which comprises bringing said polynucleotide into contact with radioactive labeled strepavidin to bind said biotin to said radioactive labeled strepavidin and determining the presence of the biotin bound to said radioactive labeled strepavidin by detecting the radioactivity of the biotin-bound radioactive strepavidin.

294. A polynucleotide containing one or more nucleotides in accordance with item 1 or item 101, or item 141, or item 142, or item 143, wherein said Sig moiety comprises a radioactively labeled antibody.

295. A polynucleotide containing one or more nucleotides in accordance with item 1 or item 101, or item 141, or item 142, or item 143, wherein said Sig moiety comprises a radioactively labeled protein.

296. A polynucleotide containing one or more nucleotides in accordance with item 1 or item 101, or item 141, or item 142, or item 143, wherein said Sign moiety comprises a radioactively labeled lectin.

The following examples are illustrative of various embodiments of the practices of this invention:

EXAMPLE I

Biotinyl-N-hydroxysuccinide ester (BNHS) was prepared according to a method of Becker et al, P.N.A.S. 68 2604 (1971). Biotin (0.24 g, 1.0 mmol) was dissolved in 5ml dry dimethylformamide. Dicyclohexylcarbodiimide (0.21 g, 1.0 mmol) and N-hydroxysuccinimide (.12 g, 1.0 mmol) were added and the solution stirred at room temperature for 15 hours. After filtration of the subsequent precipitate, the filtrate was evaporated at reduced pressure the residue was washed twice with ethanol and recovered from hot isopropyl alcohol to yield a white crystalline product having a m.p. of 216-218°C.

EXAMPLE II

Biotinyl-1,6-diaminohexane amide was prepared as follows: A solution of 1,6-diaminohexane (320 mg, 2.0 mmol), dissolved in 50 ml water, was brought to pH 8.5 by addition of carbon dioxide. Biotinyl-N-hydroxysuccinimide ester (100 mg, 0.29 mmol), dissolved in 10 ml dimethylformamide, was added. After 18 hours at room temperature the mixture was evaporated and the residue washed with ether and subsequently dried in a dessicator.

EXAMPLE III

Polybiotinylated poly-L-lysine was prepared by the following procedure. Polylysine (100 umol lysine) dissolved in 2 ml 0.1 M sodium borate, pH 8.5 was added to biotinyl-N-hydroxysuccinimide ester (17.5 mg, 50 umol) dissolved in 0.5 ml dimethylformamide. After stirring at room temperature for 18 hours, the mixture was dialyzed against 10 mM tris buffer, pH 7.5.

EXAMPLE IV

Oligodeoxyribonucleotides were end-labeled using cytidine-5'-triphosphate and terminal transferase as follows. Purified phage DNA, alkali sheared with 0.2 N sodium hydroxide and diluted to 2 A₂₆₀ units/ml in potassium cacodylate (0.1 M), tris base (25 mM), cobalt chloride (1 mM) and dithiothreitol (0.2 M) were used. To this DNA solution (1 ml) was added cytidine-5'-triphosphate (10 mmol) and terminal transferase (200 units). After incubating at 37° for 5 to 8 hours the reaction was stopped by the addition of neutralized phenol (100 ul), 0.5 M EDTA (100 ul) and 1% sodium dodecyl sulfate (100 ul). The DNA was purified by gel filtration chromatography through Sephadex G-100 followed by precipitation with ethanol.

EXAMPLE V

Biotin and polybiotinylated poly-L-lysine were coupled to oligoribonucleotides using a carbodiimide coupling procedure described by Halloran and Parker, *J. Immunol.*, **96** 373 (1966). As an example, DNA (1 ug/ml, 1 ml) in tris buffer pH 8.2, sheared with 0.1 N sodium hydroxide was denatured by boiling for 10 minutes and quick cooling in an ice bath. Biotinyl-1,6-diaminohexane amide (2 mg, 6 umol) or polybiotinylated poly-L-lysine (2 mg) and 1-ethyl-3-(3-dimethylaminopropyl)carbodiimide HCl (10 mg, 64 umol) were added, and the pH readjusted to 8.2. After 24 hours at room temperature in the dark, the mixture was dialyzed against 10 mM tris buffered saline. DNA was precipitated ethanol.

EXAMPLE VI

Biotin, conjugated to cytochrome C, was prepared by the following procedure. To a solution of cytochrome C (10 mg) in 1 ml of 0.1 M sodium borate, pH 8.5 was added biotinyl-N-hydroxysuccinimide ester (10 mg, 29 umol) in 1 ml dimethyl formamide. After 4 hours at room temperature, the biotinylated protein was purified by gel filtration chromatography through a Sephadex G-50 column.

EXAMPLE VII

Formaldehyde coupling of cytochrome C-biotin and polybiotinylated poly-L-lysine to oligodeoxyribonucleotides were carried out using a method similar to that described by Manning et al, *Chromosoma*, **53**, 107 (1975). Oligodeoxyribonucleotide fragments obtained by sodium hydroxide shearing of purified DNA (100 ug/ml in 10 mM triethanolamine, pH 7.8 were denatured by boiling for 10 minutes followed by quick cooling in ice. Cytochrome C-biotin 0.05 g/ml or polybiotinylated poly-L-lysine solution (0.05 ml) dissolved 3 mg/ml in 10 mM triethanolamine, pH 7.8 was added to 1 ml at the denatured oligodeoxyribonucleotide solution along with 0.1 ml of 6% formaldehyde in 10 mM triethanolamine, pH 7.8. After stirring at 40° for 30 minutes the mixture was dialyzed against the same buffer. The oligodeoxyribonucleotide-biotin complex was finally purified by gel filtration chromatography on Sephadex G-100 followed by precipitation from ethanol.

EXAMPLE VIII

Double stranded polydeoxyadenylic acid:polybiotinylated deoxyuridylic acid was synthesized as follows. The double stranded oligonucleotide polydeoxyadenylic acid:polythymidylic acid (20 ug) of length 300 basic pairs, dissolved in 200 ul exonuclease III buffer consisting of Tris-HCl pH 8.0 (70 mM); magnesium chloride (1.0 mM) and dithiothreitol (10 mM) was incubated with 100 units exonuclease III for 20 minutes at 20°C. The partially digested oligonucleotide was immediately extracted with phenol, and the DNA was precipitated with 70% aqueous ethanol. The partially digested oligonucleotide was redissolved in 20 ul 5mM tris-HCl pH 7.6 and incubated at 20°C. for 2 hours in a reaction containing 2'-deoxy-adenosine-5'-triphosphate (15 uM) thymidine-5'-triphosphate (the amount determines the degree of substitution) and biotinylated 5-(3-amino-1-

propene) 2'-deoxyuridine-5'-triphosphate (5 μ M), Klenow DNA polymerase I (200 units) dissolved in 0.1 mM potassium phosphate, pH 8.0 at a concentration of 0.2 units/ μ l. The biotinylated poly dA:poly dT, biotinyl dU was purified by gel filtration chromatography on Sephadex G-100. The DNA was ethanol precipitated and redissolved in 20 μ l of solution containing sodium acetate pH 4.6 (30 mM), sodium chloride (50 mM), zinc sulfate (1 mM) and glycerol (5%). S₁ nuclease (200 units) was added, and the reaction was incubated at 37° for 10 minutes. The reaction was stopped with 1 ml ammonium acetate (4 M) and 6 ml ethanol. The DNA was repurified by G-100 gel filtration chromatography and ethanol precipitation.

10 EXAMPLE IX

Ligation of poly dA:poly dT, biotinyl dU to oligodeoxyribonucleotides was accomplished as follows: DNA fragments from alkali sheared purified DNA (as described in Example VIII) were digested with S₁ nuclease and repurified by phenol extraction and ethanol precipitation. Blunt ended DNA fragments (1 μ g) and poly dA:poly dT, biotinyl dU (2 μ g) were dissolved in 6 μ l at a buffer containing tris-HCl pH 7.4 (66 mM), magnesium chloride (6.6 mM), adenosine triphosphate (24 mM) and dithiothreitol (1.0 mM), T4 DNA ligase (50 units) was added, and the volume brought to 20 μ l with water. The reaction was incubated 3 hours at 37°C. The DNA was purified by gel filtration chromatography through Sephadex G-100 and was ethanol precipitated.

EXAMPLE X

5-Hydroxymethyl-2'-deoxycytidylic acid was prepared by enzymatic hydrolysis of non glycosylated phage T₄ DNA. Purified phage DNA (2 mg), dissolved in 1 ml 50 mM tris pH 7.4 and 10 mM magnesium chloride, was incubated 20 hours with deoxyribonuclease I at 37°. The pH was adjusted to 9.0 and sodium chloride (20 mM) added. Snake venom phosphodiesterase (0.05 g units in 0.5 ml water) was added and incubation continued at 37° for 5 hours. An additional 0.05 units phosphodiesterase was added and incubation continued 18 hours. Nucleotides were separated by gel filtration chromatography through Sephadex G-50. 5-hydroxymethyl-2'-deoxycytidylic acid was purified by reverse phase high pressure liquid chromatography.

35 EXAMPLE XI

5-(4-aminobutylaminomethyl)-2'-deoxyuridylic acid was obtained by enzymatic hydrolysis of DNA from phage ϕ w-14. The phage was grown on *Pseudomonas acidovorans* 29 according to Kropinski and Warren, *Gen. Virol.* 6, 85 (1970), and the phage DNA purified according to Kropinski et al, *Biochem.* 12, 151 (1973). The DNA was enzymatically hydrolyzed with deoxyribonuclease I and snake venom phosphodiesterase using the procedure described elsewhere (Example X). 5-(4-aminobutylaminomethyl)-2'-deoxyuridylic acid was purified by reverse phase high-pressure liquid chromatography.

45 EXAMPLE XII

Biotinylated-5-(4-aminobutylaminomethyl)-2'-deoxyuridylic acid was prepared as follows: Biotinyl-n-hydroxysuccinimide ester (70 mg 0.2 mmol) dissolved in 1 ml dimethylformamide was added to 5-(4-aminobutylaminomethyl)-2'-deoxyuridylic acid in 20 ml 0.1 M sodium borate pH 8.5. After 4 hours the solution was concentrated to 0.5 ml by evaporation, and the biotinylated nucleotide was purified by reverse phase high pressure liquid chromatography.

EXAMPLE XIII

5-formyl-2'-deoxyuridine prepared according to Mertes and Shipchandler, *J. Heterocyclic Chem.* **1**, 751 (1970). 5-hydroxymethyluracil (1 mmol) dissolved in 20 ml dimethylsulfonate was heated at 100°C. with manganese dioxide (2.5 mmol) for 15 minutes. The solvent was evaporated at reduced pressure. The residue was taken up in hot ethanol and recrystallized from ethanol to yield 5-formyluracil, 5-formyluracil (0.10 g) was silylated and dissolved in dry acetonitrile (2.5 ml), 2-deoxy-3,5-di-O-p-toluy-D-ribofuranosyl chloride (Bhat, *Syn. Proc. in Nucleic Acid Chem.*, Vol. I, p. 521 (1968) (0.22 g) and molecular sieves (0.2 g) were added, and the mixture stirred at 25°C. for 40 hours under anhydrous conditions. The mixture was filtered and evaporated. The resulting oil was treated with anhydrous ethanol (2 ml) and chromatographed on silica gel to obtain the partially pure anomer which was recrystallized from ethanol (M.P. 195-196°C.). The toluyl groups were removed by reaction of the product in methanol benzene with sodium methoxide. The mixture was neutralized with Dowex 50 (H⁺). 5-formyl-2'-deoxyuridine was recrystallized from ethanol M.P. 175-176°C.

EXAMPLE XIV

Biotin was coupled to 5-formyl-2'-deoxyuridine as follows:
To 5-formyl-2'-deoxyuridine (.320 g, 1.0 mmol) dissolved in 300 ml 0.05 M sodium borate, was added biotinyl-1,6-diaminohexane amide (0.74 g, 2 mmol). After stirring one hour, sodium borohydride (0.2 g, 5 mmol) was added and stirring continued for an additional 4 hours followed by the addition of 8 ml 1M formic acid. The biotinated compound was purified by reverse phase HPLC eluting with methanol:0.5 M triethyl ammonium acetate, pH 4.0.

EXAMPLE XV

Biotin was coupled to 5-amino-2'-deoxyuridine as follows: 5-amino-2'-deoxyuridine (0.24 g, 1 mmol), biotin (0.25 g, 1 mmol) and dicyclohexylcarbodiimide (0.21 g, 1 mmol) were dissolved in dry dimethyl formamide and stirred at room temperature overnight. After filtration and evaporation of the solvent, the residue was washed with ether. The biotin-coupled product was purified by reverse phase high pressure liquid chromatography using a water methanol gradient.

EXAMPLE XVI

5-(oxy)acetic acid-2'-deoxyuridine was prepared according to a procedure of Deschamps and DeClerq, *J. Med. Chem.*, **21**, 228 (1978). 5-hydroxy-2-deoxyuridine (282 mg, 1.15 mmol) was dissolved in 1.16 ml, 1N potassium hydroxide (1.16 mmol) after which iodoacetic acid (603 mg, 3.4 mmol) in 1 ml water was added. After reaction at room temperature for 48 hours 1N HCl (1.06 ml) was added. Concentration of this solution and addition of ethanol yielded a precipitate which was filtered, washed with cold ethanol and recrystallized from hot ethanol.

EXAMPLE XVII

Biotinyl-1,6-diaminohexane amide was coupled to 5-(oxy) acetic acid-2'-deoxyuridine as follows: Biotinyl-1,5-diaminohexane amide (0.74 g, 0.2 mmol), 5-(oxy)acetic acid-2'-deoxyuridine (0.60 g, 0.2 mmol) and dicyclohexylcarbodiimide (0.41 g, 0.2 mmol) were dissolved in 5 ml dry dimethylformamide and remained overnight at room temperature. The reaction was subsequently filtered and the solvent removed by evaporation. The residue was washed with .1N HCl and ether. The biotinated uridine derivative was purified by reverse phase high pressure liquid chromatography using a water-methanol gradient.

EXAMPLE XVIII

Phosphorylation of 5-substituted pyrimidine nucleosides was accomplished by the general procedure described below for biotinylated-5-(oxy)acetic acid-2'-deoxyuridine. The nucleotide (0.16 g, 0.5 mmol) was dried by repeated evaporation from dry pyridine and redissolved in 10 ml dry pyridine. Monomethoxytrityl chloride (0.30 g, 0.8 mmol) was added and the mixture stirred at room temperature in the dark for 18 hours. The solution was diluted with chloroform (200 ml) and extracted with 0.1 M sodium bicarbonate. The organic layer was dried and evaporated. The tritylated nucleoside was redissolved in dry pyridine (20 ml) and acetylated by reaction at room temperature with acetic anhydride (0.1 ml, 20 mmol). The mixture was cooled to 4°C. and methanol (40 ml) added. After stirring 10 hours at room temperature, the reaction was concentrated by evaporation. The compound was detritylated by dissolving in 1% benzene sulfonic acid in chloroform (20 ml). After evaporation of solvent the nucleoside was purified by chromatography on silica gel eluting with 2% methanol:chloroform. The 3'-acetylated nucleoside was dried by repeated evaporation of dry pyridine. A mixture of phosphorous oxychloride (100 μ l, 1 mmol), (1-H), 1,2,4-triazole (140 mg, 2.2 mmol) and triethylamine (260 μ l, 2.0 mmol) was stirred in 5 ml anhydrous dioxane at 10°-15°C. for 30 minutes and at room temperature for 1 hour. This was added to the 3'-acetylated nucleoside, and the mixture stirred at room temperature for 1 hour after which it was cooled to 0°C. Water (5 ml) was added and the reaction stirred at room temperature for 18 hours. Barium chloride (100 mg, 5 mmol) was added and the barium salt of the nucleotide collected by filtration. The salt was washed with water and ether. The barium salt was converted to the sodium salt by stirring with Dowex 50 (Na⁺ form) in 10 ml water for 4 hours at room temperature. 2 N sodium hydroxide (2N, 10 ml) was added and the reaction stirred for 15 minutes at room temperature after which it was neutralized by addition of excess Dowex 50 (H⁺) form. The deacetylated nucleotide was concentrated by evaporation and purified by reverse phase high-pressure chromatography.

EXAMPLE XIX

5-substituted pyrimidine triphosphates were chemically prepared from their respective 5' monophosphates using a procedure of Michelson, Biochem Biophys Acta, 91, 1, (1964). The example of 5-hydroxymethyl-2'-deoxycytidine-5'-triphosphate will be given. The others were similarly prepared. 5-hydroxymethyl-2' deoxycytidylic acid (free acid) (0.63 g, 0.2 mmol) was converted to its tri-n-octylammonium salt by suspending in methanol and addition of tri-n-octylammonium hydroxide (0.74 g, 0.2 mmol). The suspension was refluxed until a clear solution was obtained and the solvent removed under vacuum. The salt was dried by dissolution in and subsequent evaporation from dry pyridine several times. To the salt, dissolved in dry dimethylformamide (0.1 ml) and dioxane (1 ml) was added diphenylphosphochloridate (0.1 ml) and tri-n-butylamine (0.2 ml). After 25 hours at room temperature, solvent was removed and ether was added to precipitate the nucleoside-5'-diphenylpyrophosphate. This was dissolved in dioxane (0.5 ml) and a solution of di(tri-n-butylammonium) pyrophosphate (0.5 mmol) in 1 ml pyridine was added. After 45 minutes at room temperature, the mixture was concentrated under vacuum to a small volume. The crude product was precipitated with ether. This was dissolved in 0.1 M phosphate buffer pH 8.0. The triphosphate was purified by chromatography on DEAE cellulose eluting with a gradient of 0.1 to 0.6 M triethylammonium bicarbonate pH 7.5.

EXAMPLE XX

DNA was labeled with 5-substituted pyrimidine triphosphates by nick translating DNA in the presence of the appropriate triphosphate. An example follows for labeling purified DNA with biotinylated 5-formyl-2'-deoxyuridine. DNA (20 μ g/ml) was incubated at 14°C. in the presence of magnesium chloride (5 mM) 2'-deoxycytidine-5'-triphosphate (15 mM), 2'-deoxyadenosine-5'-triphosphate (15 μ M), 2'-deoxyguanosine-5'-triphosphate (15 μ M), biotinylated-5-formyl-2'-deoxyuridine-5'-triphosphate (20 μ M), activated pancreatic

deoxyribonuclease I (13 mg/ml), *E. coli* deoxyribonuclease acid, polymerase I (40 units/ml) and tris HCL, pH 7.4 (50 mM). After 2 hours the reaction was stopped by addition of 0.3 M EDTA (.05 ml) followed by heating at 65° for 5 minutes. Labeled oligonucleotide was purified by gel filtration chromatography through Sephadex G-100 and precipitation from cold ethanol.

5

EXAMPLE XXI

10 PRECIPITATION OF GLUCOSYLATED DNA BY CONCAVALIN A

Reaction mixtures (1.0 ml) were prepared in 1.5 ml eppendorf tubes as follows:

15 Sodium potassium phosphate, pH 6.5 10mM
 NaCl 150mM
 MgSO₄ 5mM
 CaCl₂ 1mM
 DNA (T4 of calf thymus) 50ug

20 Concanavalin A (10 mg/ml) 50-500 ug

Reactions were started by the addition of concanavalin A (Con A). The solutions were mixed and left at room temperature for 60 minutes. The tubes were centrifuged at 1200 g for 15-20 minutes. The supernatants were diluted and the A₂₆₀ was measured.

25 Since Con A absorbs at 260 nanometers, control solutions lacking DNA but containing Con A were prepared. The Con A absorbance was subtracted from the absorbance obtained in the complete reaction mixtures.

The results of this reaction are presented in accompanying Figure 1.

30 EXAMPLE XXII

BINDING OF GLUCOSYLATED DNA TO CONCAVALIN A

35 Phage T4 DNA and phage DNA were labeled by incorporation of H³-deoxyadenosine triphosphate into the DNA by nick translation according to the Rigby et al procedure. T4 DNA was nick translated to a specific activity of 5×10⁵cpm/microgram and an average double-standed size of 5 kilobases. Lambda DNA was nick translation to a specific activity of 3×10⁵cpm/microgram and an average double stranded size of 40 6.0 kilobases as determined by agarose gel electrophoresis. Unincorporated nucleotides were removed from the reaction mixtures by Bio-Gel P-60 chromatography.

Con A sepharose was prepared as described by the manufacturer (Pharmacia). One ml of settled gel contained 18 mg of bound Con A. One ml columns were prepared in sterile pasteur pipettes and were equilibrated with PBS (0.15 M NaCl; .01 M sodium potassium phosphate, pH 6.5).

45 H₃-DNA samples were prepared in 0.5 ml of buffer (as described in Example XXI but without Con A). T4 DNA solutions contained 176,000 cpm/0.5 ml, and DNA solutions contained 108,000 cp/0.5 ml. A 0.5 ml sample was applied to the column.

A 10.5 ml volume of buffer was passed through the column, and the eluate fractions (0.33 ml) were collected and counted in a Beckman LSC-100 scintillation counter in a 3.5 ml refluor cocktail (Beckman). 50 The results (Figures 2A and 2B) show that non-glucosylated DNA was not bound whereas glucosylated T4 DNA was bound to the column. The bound T4 DNA was removed by washing the column with a higher pH buffer (Tris-Hcl, pH 7.2 - 8.2).

Furthermore, consistent with the interaction of glucose and Con A, mannose, when included in the buffer in which the DNA is applied to the column, prevents binding of glucosylated DNA to Con A sepharose. Also, mannose-containing buffer (PBS-containing 0.056 M mannose) removes bound T4 DNA 55 from Con A sepharose (Figures 3A and 3B).

Further illustrative of the practices of this invention directed to nonradioactive methods or techniques of assaying for specific nucleic acids, the following example deals with the use of the sugar-lectin system.

This example deals with the use of DNA which is not glycosylated in nature but rather has had a maltotriose group added thereto by way of nick translation described herein. The maltotriose modified dUTP and DNA modified therewith bind specifically to a column of concanavalin A covalently bound to sepharose. By this technique and in accordance with the practices of this invention, there is provided a means for specifically labeling any nucleic acid with sugars. As previously indicated herein, nick translation is only one of a number of techniques and approaches possible for the production of the modified nucleic acids in accordance with this invention.

10 EXAMPLE XXIII

Lambda DNA was nick translated as described herein with maltotriose coupled to 5-(3-amino-1-propenyl)-2'-deoxyuridine-5' triphosphate and ^3H -2'-deoxyadenosine-5'-triphosphate. Under these conditions DNA was substituted to 40 per cent of its thymidine residues with the maltotriose nucleotide and had a specific activity of 8×10^5 counts per minute (cpm) per microgram of DNA. A control sample of DNA substituted only with ^3H -dATP had a specific activity of 6×10^5 cpm per microgram DNA. The nick translated DNA samples were purified free of reaction mixture components by Biogel P-60 chromatography as described herein.

The purified samples were applied to Con A-sepharose columns as described in Figures 2A and 2B. The maltotriose-labeled DNA was retained on the column when washed with PBS but was removed by subsequent elution with 10mM Tris-HCl, pH 8.2 (Figure 4A). The unsubstituted tritiated DNA did not bind to the column at pH 7.4 (Figure 4B).

25 EXAMPLE XXIV

Potentially immunogenic heptenes may be introduced at the 5 position of uridine by a variety of methods in the literature. 5-(perfluorobutyl)-2'-deoxyuridine was synthesized using a method of Cech et al, Nucl. Acids Res. 2, 2183 (1979). Copper-bronze was prepared by reacting copper sulfite (5 g, 20 mmol) with zinc powder (2 g) in 20 ml water. The mixture was decanted, and the residue washed with water and then 5% hydrochloric acid and water. Just before use, the solid (2 g) was activated with 2% iodine in acetone (20 ml). After filtration the residue was washed with acetone:concentrated hydrochloric acid and then pure acetone. Activated copper-bronze (130 mg, 2 mmol) and 1-iodo-1',2,2',3,3',4,4'-heptafluorobutane (1.3 mg, 4 mmol) were stirred in 3 ml dimethylsulfoxide at 110°C. for 1 hour. After cooling and filtration, 2'-deoxyuridine (245 mg, 1mmol) was added, and the mixture heated at 110°C. for 1 hour. Water (5 ml) was added, and the mixture extracted with ether. The ether extracts were dried and evaporated under reduced pressure. The residue was chromatographed on a silica gel column eluting with ethylacetate.

40 EXAMPLE XXV

Tubericydin was substituted at the 5 position by derivitizing the 5-cyano compound, toyocamycin. An example is the synthesis of 4-amino-5 (tetrazol)-5-yl)-7-(B-D-ribofuranosyl) pyrrolo[2,3-d]pyrimidine using a procedure of Schram and Townsend, J. Carbohydrate, Nucleosides:Nucleotides 1, 38 (1974). Toyocamycin (1.0 g) dissolved in water (100 ml) and glacial acetic acid (13 ml) was heated to reflux. Sodium azide (7.5 g) was added in 1.25 g portions over 10 hours. The solution was cooled to 5°C. and the precipitated product collected, M.P. 276-277°C.

55 EXAMPLE XXVI

5-Cyano-2'-deoxyuridine was prepared according to Bleckley et al, Nucl. Acids Res. 2, 683 (1975). 5-Iodo-2'-deoxyuridine (1.0 g, 2.82 mmol) was dissolved in refluxing hexamethyldisilazane (HMDS) (10 ml). Excess HMDS was removed at reduced pressure, and the resulting oil was dissolved in dry pyridine (50

ml). Cuprous cyanide (350 mg, 3.8 mmol) was added, and the solution heated at 160°C. for 20 hours. Pyridine was removed at reduced pressure, and the residue extracted into toluene which was subsequently evaporated. The residue was heated in 50% aqueous ethanol at 100° for 2 hours. The product was purified by reverse-phase high pressure liquid chromatography and recrystallized from ethanol, M.P. 161°C.

5

EXAMPLE XXVII

10 4-amino-5-amino methylene-7-(β -D-2-deoxyfuranosyl) pyrrolo[2,3-d]pyrimidine dihydrochloride was obtained as follows. 4-amino-5-cyano-7-(β -D-2-deoxyfuranosyl) pyrrolo[2,3-d]pyrimidine (Toyocamycin) (0.2 g) was dissolved in hydrochloric acid (10 ml). 10% palladium on charcoal (0.1 g) was added as the mixture hydrogenated at 40 psi for 5 hours at room temperature. After filtration the water was evaporated at reduced pressure. The residue was triturated with ethanol, and the product recrystallized from 50% ethanol.

15

EXAMPLE XXVIII

20 5-amino-2'-deoxyuridine was prepared from 5-bromo-2'-deoxyuridine according to the procedure of Roberts and Visser, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* 14:665-669 (1952). 5-bromo-2'-deoxyuridine (2g, 6.2 mmol) dissolved in liquid ammonia (20 ml) was sealed in a glass tube and heated at 50° for 5 days. The tube was opened, and the ammonia was evaporated. 5-amino-2'-deoxyuridine was recrystallized from 5 ml water and 75 ml hot isopropyl alcohol.

25

EXAMPLE XXIX

30 5-(methylamino)-2'-deoxyuridine (0.2 g) was prepared as follows. 5-cyano-2'-deoxyuridine (0.2 g, 0.05 mol) was dissolved in 1 N hydrochloric acid (10 ml). 10% palladium on charcoal (0.1 g) was added, and the mixture hydrogenated at 40 p.s.i. for 10 hours at room temperature. The mixture was filtered and the water evaporated at reduced pressure. The residue was triturated with ether, and the product was recrystallized from 80% ethanol.

35

EXAMPLE XXX

40 Maltose triose was oxidized to the corresponding carboxylic acid by the following method. Maltose triose (0.5 g, 0.94 mmol) was dissolved in water (5 ml). Lead carbonate (0.42 g, 1.1 mmol) and bromine (0.17 ml, 3.3 mmol) were added, and the mixture was allowed to react at room temperature for six days after which no reducing sugar remained. The mixture was filtered, and silver carbonate (0.2 g) added. After refiltering, the filtrate was deionized by elution through Dowex 50 (H^+ form). Evaporation of water and drying
45 in the presence of phosphorus pentoxide yielded the desired product.

EXAMPLE XXXI

50

Maltose triose was coupled to 5-(3-amino-1-propenyl)-2'-deoxyuridine-5'triphosphate by the following procedure. Oxidized maltose triose (190 mg, 0.18 mmol) was dissolved in dimethylformamide (0.8 ml) and cooled to 4°C. Isobutyl chloroformate (25 mg, 0.18 mmol) and tri-n-butylamine (43 μ l, 0.38 mmol) were added, and the solution allowed to react at 4°C. for 15 minutes. 5-(3-amino-1-propenyl)-2'-deoxyuridine-5'-triphosphate (9.0 μ mol), dissolved in dimethyl formamide (1.2 ml) and 0.1 M sodium borate and cooled to
55 4°C., was added to the above solution. The mixture was incubated at 4°C. for 1 hour and at room temperature for 18 hours. It was then loaded on a DEAE-cellulose column and eluted with a gradient of 0.1 to 0.6 M triethylammonium bicarbonate, pH 7.5. The product was finally purified by reverse phase high

pressure liquid chromatography.

Following are Examples XXXII and XXXIII. Example XXXII is a method of tagging allylamine modified dUTP with a fluorescein substituent. This is an example of creation of a self detecting nucleic acid probe. Example XXXIII is a method of labeling preformed double helical nucleic acids at the N² position of guanine and the N⁶ position of adenine. Example XXXVII has the detector molecule linked to the probe. Chromosoma 84: 1-18 (1981) and Exp. Cell Res. 128:485-490, disclose end labeling of RNA with rhodamine. However, the procedure of this invention is less disruptive and labels internal nucleotides.

10 EXAMPLE XXXII

Fluorescein was coupled to 5-(3-amino-1-propyl)-2'-deoxyuridine-5'-triphosphate (AA-dUTP) as follows. AA-dUTP (10 umol), dissolved in 2 ml sodium borate buffer (0.1 M), pH 9.0, was added to fluorescein isothiocyanate (10 mg, 25 umol) dissolved in 1 ml dimethylformamide. After four hours at room temperature the mixture was loaded onto a DEAE-cellulose column equilibrated in triethylammonium bicarbonate buffer, pH 7.5. The fluorescein coupled AA-dUTP was purified by elution with a gradient of from 0.1 to 0.6 M triethylammonium bicarbonate, pH 7.5.

20 EXAMPLE XXXIII

DNA may be modified by reaction with chemical alkylating agents. Lambda DNA was alkylated in N² position of guanine and N⁶ position of adenine by reacting DNA with aromatic hydrocarbon 7-bromomethylbenz[a]anthracene. 7-bromomethylbenz[a]anthracene was obtained as follows. 7-methyl[a]anthracene in carbon disulfide solution was cooled in a freezing mixture and treated dropwise with a molar equivalent of bromine. After 30 minutes, the product in suspension was collected, and was washed with dry ether and recrystallized from benzene. The yield was 66% with melting point 190.5-191.5°C.

DNA, purified from phage Lambda, (1.6 mg) was solubilized in 5.0 ml of 20 mM potassium phosphate pH 6.5. To 4.0 ml of DNA solution was added 500 micrograms 7-bromomethylbenz[a]anthracene in dry acetone. After 30 minutes at 20°, the DNA was precipitated with two volumes of cold ethanol. The precipitate was washed successively with ethanol, acetone and ether to remove any unbound 7-bromomethylbenz[a]anthracene. Enzymatic hydrolysis of the DNA to nucleosides and subsequent chromatography of the products on Sephadex LH-20 columns, indicated that 18% of the adenine and 48% of the guanine in DNA were modified in N⁶ and N² positions, respectively.

The modified DNA was made single stranded either by (1) heating to 100° for 5 minutes and rapid cooling or (2) incubating with equal volume of 0.1 M NaOH for 10 minutes and then dialyzing the solution for four hours against 1 ml tris-HCl pH 8.0 containing 0.5 ml EDTA to keep the DNA in single-stranded form.

40 EXAMPLE XXXIV

A DNA probe was ligated to a synthetic DNA composed of repeated sequences of *E. coli* lac operator DNA. After hybridization to detect antiprobe sequences, the hybridized DNA was detected by reaction with biotinylated lac repressor which was, in turn, detected by an enzyme linked immuno sorbent assay using goat anti-biotin IGG to react with the biotin and a second antibody coupled to horse radish peroxidase. The lac polyoperator DNA has been described by Caruthers (Second Annual Congress for Recombinant DNA Research, Los Angeles, 1982), and it was ligated, in a blunt end ligation, using T4 ligase, to an adenovirus DNA probe. In situ hybridization of the polyoperator-labeled probe DNA was carried out as described by Gerhard et al (Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, 78, 3755 (1981). Biotinylated lac repressor was prepared as described by Manning et al (Chromosoma, 53, 107-117 (1975) and was applied to adenovirus infected cells, fixed to a glass slide, in binding buffer composed of (0.01 M KCl, 0.01 M tris (pH 7.6), 0.01 M MgSO₄, 10⁻⁴ M EDTA, 10⁻⁴ M DTT, 5% DMSO (dimethyl sulfoxide) and 50 ug/ml bovine serum albumin by J. Miller, Experiments in Molecular Genetics, Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory (1972). The slides were washed in binding buffer to remove unbound biotinylated lac repressor and then assayed for biotin using the horse radish peroxidase-linked double antibody procedure. This procedure could be adapted to create an affinity

column where the probe could be bound to immobilized repressor protein and then removed by elution with a specific inducer, for example, isopropylthiogalactoside or thiomethylgalactoside. The affinity of the repressor-operator complex is quite high 10^{-11} M. When a specific inducer binds to the repressor the operator-repressor complex collapses.

5

EXAMPLE XXXV

10 5-Bromo-2'-deoxyuridine-5'-phosphate was prepared as follows: 2'-Deoxyuridine-5'-phosphate (6.2 g) was suspended in a mixture of 60 ml pyridine and 30 ml acetic acid. Bromine (0.84 ml) was added with stirring in an ice water bath and stirring continued for 20 hours at room temperature. The solution was concentrated by vacuum. After redissolution in a minimum of water a crude product was precipitated by addition of ethanol. The crude product was chromatographed on Dowex 50 (H^+) and eluted with water. The
15 free acid product was precipitated from the concentrated eluent by addition of ethanol.

EXAMPLE XXXVI

20 Calf intestine alkaline phosphatase was biotinylated as follows: The enzyme (1 mg, 7.7 mmol) was chromatographed on a G-50 column eluting with 0.1 M Hepes buffer pH 8.0 containing 0.1 M sodium chloride. The pooled fractions were reacted with N-biotinyl-6-amino-caproic acid-N-hydroxysuccinimide ester (0.675 mg, 0.77 μ mol) dissolved in 10 ml dimethylformamide at room temperature for 1 hour. Sodium
25 periodate (0.1 M 125 μ l) was added and stirring continued for 2 hours. The mixture was dialyzed at 4° overnight in 0.1 M Hepes buffer pH 8.0 with 0.1 M NaCl after which the pH was adjusted to 7.4. Biotin hydrazide (0.1 M, 0.5 ml) dissolved in 0.1 M Hepes buffer pH 7.4 and 0.1 M NaCl was added and the reaction stirred for 30 minutes at room temperature. The pH was adjusted to 8.0 with 0.2 M sodium carbonate and 0.5 ml of freshly prepared 0.1 M sodium borohydride in water was added, the solution was
30 dialyzed against 0.1 M Tris buffer pH 8.0 with 0.1 M NaCl.

EXAMPLE XXXVII

35 6-Cyano-2'-deoxyuridine-5'-phosphate was prepared similarly to a procedure of Veder et al, J. Carbohydr. Nucleosides, Nucleotides, 5, 261 (1978). 5-bromo-2'-deoxyuridine-5'-phosphoric acid (2.0 g, 15 mmol) dried by successive evaporation from pyridine was dissolved in 50 ml dimethylsulfide. Sodium cyanide (490 mg, 10 mmol) was added and the solution stirred at room temperature for 2 days. The
40 solution was diluted with 400 ml water and the pH adjusted to 7.5. It was applied to a DEAE-cellulose column (HCO_3^- form) washed with 2000 ml 0.02 M triethylammonium bicarbonate to yield the desired product.

EXAMPLE XXXVIII

45 6-(Methylamino)-2'-deoxyuridine-5'-phosphoric acid was prepared as follows: 6-Cyano-2'-deoxyuridine-5'-phosphoric acid (0.2 g, 60 μ mol) was dissolved in 0.1 M hydrochloric acid. After addition of 10% palladium on charcoal (0.1 g), the mixture was hydrogenated at 40 psi for 20 hours at room temperature. The mixture was filtered, neutralized with lithium hydroxide and lyophilized. The product residue was extracted with ethanol.

55

EXAMPLE XXXIX

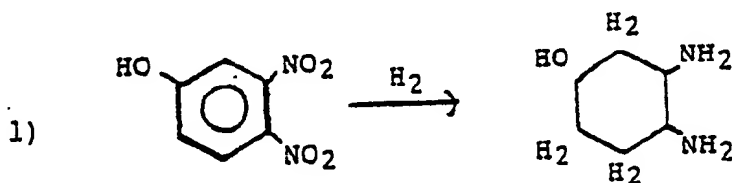
Horse radish peroxidase (20 mg) dissolved in 5 ml distilled water was added to 1.0 ml freshly prepared 0.1 M sodium periodate solution. After stirring at room temperature for 20 minutes it was dialyzed overnight at 4°C. against 1 mM sodium acetate pH 4.4. Biotin hydrazide (2.6 mg, 5×10^{-2} mmol) dissolved 2.0, 0.1 M Hepes buffer pH 7.4 with 0.1 M sodium chloride was brought to pH 8.0 with 0.2 M sodium carbonate and 0.5 ml of a freshly prepared 0.1 M sodium borohydride solution in water was added. After 2 hours at 4°C. the protein was purified on a Sephadex G-50 column eluting with 0.1 M Hepes and 0.1 M NaCl.

EXAMPLE XL

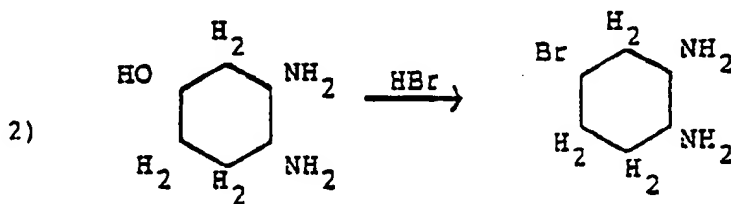
Carrot acid phosphatase has been mentioned by Brunngraber and Chargaff, *J. Biol Chem.*, (1967) 242, 4834-4840 as a byproduct of the purification of phosphotransferase and has been purified to a specific activity of 460 uM/mg/min at 37°C. with paranitrophenylphosphate as the substrate. The purification involved the steps of (a) absorption of non-specific proteins by DEAE cellulose; (b) acid purification of the enzyme; (c) acetone fractionation; (d) concanavalin A affinity chromatography; (e) hydroxyapatite chromatography and (f) Sephadex G-100 fractionation. The specific activity of the enzyme subjected to the Sephadex G-100 fractionation due to loss of activity in the preceding affinity chromatography step (d) was 170 uM/mg/m. By changing elution conditions at step (d), these losses can be avoided with the result that the specific activity of the enzyme before the Sephadex G-100 fractionation can be improved to 340 uM/mg/m. The Sephadex G-100 fractionation step should yield an enzyme having a specific activity of 800 uM/mg/m or higher. Carrot acid phosphatase was biotinylated using a procedure of Wilchek et al *Biochemistry* 6, 247 (1967). To the enzyme (20 mg) dissolved 0.1 M NaCl, pH 5, was added biotin hydrazide (2.0 mg, 7×10^{-3} mmol) and 1-ethyl-3-(3-dimethylaminopropyl) carbodimide hydrochloride (1 mg, 7×10^{-3} mmol) dissolved in 0.1 M NaCl, pH 5. After 2 hours at 4°C. the enzyme was chromatographed on Sephadex G-50 eluting with 0.1 M sodium acetate, pH 5.0.

Of special importance and significance in the practices of this invention is the utilization of self-signaling or self-indicating or self-detecting nucleic acids, particularly such nucleic acids which are capable of being incorporated in double-stranded DNA and the like. Such self-signaling or self-detecting nucleic acids can be created by covalently attaching to an allylamine substituent making up a modified nucleotide in accordance with this invention a molecule which will chelate specific ions, e.g. heavy metals, rare earths, etc. In general, the chelated ion can be detected either (a) by radioactive emission or (b) by using the ion to catalyze a chromogenic or fluorogenic reaction.

By way of example, a solution of 3,4-dinitro phenol is reduced to 3,4-diamino cyclohexane

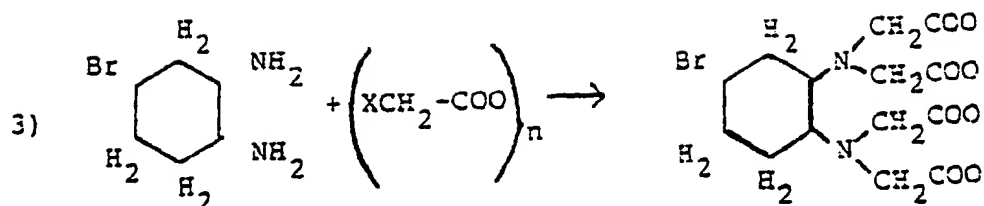


This material is then brominated

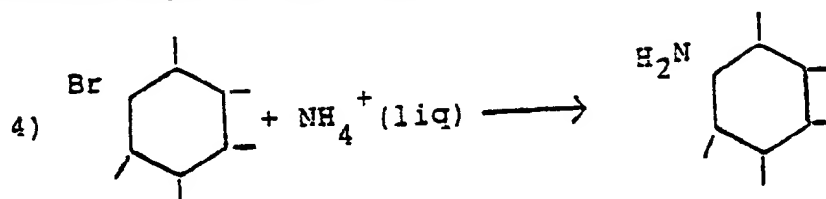


to form 3,4-diamino bromo cyclohexane (dABCH). This compound is reacted with halide (Cl, Br, I) substituted carboxymethyl compound to produce a tetra carboxymethyl derivative or dABCH (TCM-

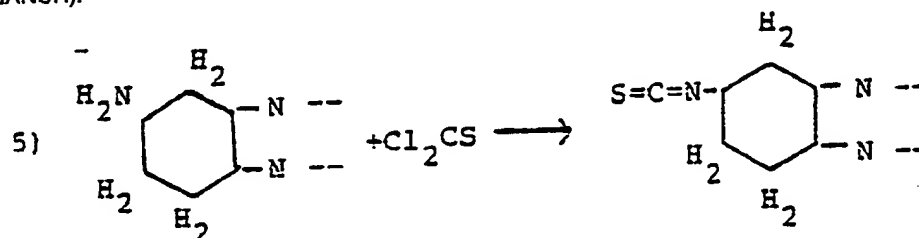
dABCH):



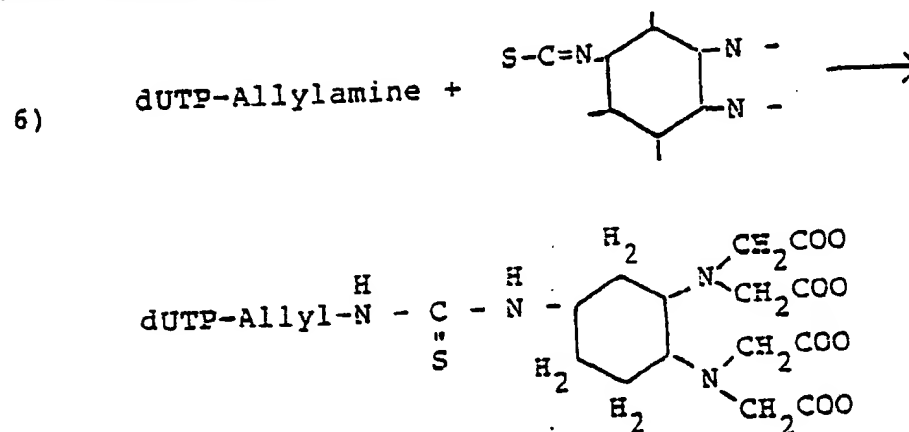
The bromine is substituted by an amino group using soluble ammonia:



Then this compound is reacted with chloro thiophosgene to produce the isothiocyanate derivative of (TCM-dANCH).



Finally, this compound is reacted with dUTP-allylamine derivative to produce modified dUTP.



Cobalt or other heavy metal ions or other rare earth ions can be chelated to the compound after step 3 above. Or the nucleic acid can be substituted with this adduct and then the ion added. (Example, cobalt is added at pH 6 where the binding constant is 10^{-19} M).

Cobalt can be assayed by radioactivity. It can also be detected by its ability to oxidize methylene blue to the leuco form in the presence of molecular oxygen. It can be used to oxidize soluble sulfhydryl groups to disulfide bonds again in the presence of molecular oxygen.

This type of self-signaling molecule can be used to monitor any nucleic acid hybridization reaction. It is particularly important for detecting nucleic acids in gels (for example, sequencing gels).

With respect to its use in radioactivity, it can be used to tailor the isotope needed, i.e. if a weak or strong β or γ emitter is needed, that isotope can be chelated. Examples of isotopes that can be used are listed immediately hereinafter.

- Antimony-124
- 5 Antimony-125
- Arsenic-74
- Barium-133
- Barium-140
- Beryllium-7
- 10 Bismuth-206
- Bismuth-207
- Cadmium-109
- Cadmium-115m
- Calcium-45
- 15 Carbon-14
- Cerium-139
- Cerium-141
- Cerium-144
- Cesium-134
- 20 Cesium-137
- Chlorine-36
- Chromium-51
- Cobalt-56
- Cobalt-57
- 25 Cobalt-58
- Cobalt-60
- Erbium-169
- Europium-152
- Gadolinium-153
- 30 Gold-195
- Gold-199
- Hafnium-175
- Hafnium-175 + 181
- Hafnium-181
- 35 Hydrogen-3 see Tritium
- Iodine-125
- Iodine-131
- Iodine-132
- Iridium-192
- 40 Iron-55
- Iron-59
- Krypton-85
- Lead-210
- Lutecium-177
- 45 Manganese-54
- Mercury-197
- Mercury-203
- Molybdenum-99
- Neodymium-147
- 50 Neptunium-237
- Nickel-63
- Niobium-95
- Osmium-185 + 191
- Palladium-103
- 55 Platinum-195m
- Praseodymium-143
- Promethium-147
- Protactinium-233

Radium-226
 Rhenium-186
 Rubidium-86
 Ruthenium-103
 5 Ruthenium-106
 Scandium-44
 Scandium-46
 Selenium-75
 Silver-110m
 10 Silver-111
 Sodium-22
 Strontium-85
 Strontium-89
 Strontium-90
 15 Sulphur-35
 Tantalum-182
 Technetium-99
 Tellurium-125m
 Tellurium-132
 20 Terbium-160
 Thallium-204
 Thorium-228
 Thorium-232
 Thulium-170
 25 Tin-113
 Titanium-44
 Tritium
 Tungsten-185
 Vanadium-48
 30 Vanadium-49
 Ytterbium-169
 Yttrium-88
 Yttrium-90
 Yttrium-91
 35 Zinc-65
 Zirconium-95

Streptavidin, a protein produced by a Streptomyces avidinii is a large molecular weight component of a synergistic pair of compounds which are both present in the culture filtrates of this microorganism. Each of the pair is inactive but in combination are active against gram-negative microorganisms. It has been found that the small component of this antibiotic prevents de novo synthesis of the vitamin biotin and thus, at least in synthetic media, show antimicrobial activity. In complex medium, however, the large component has to be included to exert the same effect on bacteria. This has been shown to be due to the presence of external biotin in the complex medium. The large molecular component has been found to bind external biotin and thus demonstrating the same kind of action as avidin from eggs and oviduct tissues of laying birds.

Streptavidin has been purified and shown to be a 60,000 dalton polypeptide. Like avidin, streptavidin contains four subunits and binds tightly four molecules of biotin. Unlike avidin, however, it is non-glycosylated and it has PI of 5.0 as compared to avidin with PI = 10.5. Due to the difference in pI streptavidin does not have a tendency to non-specifically interact with DNA.

PREPARATION OF STREPTAVIDIN

A semi-synthetic medium containing salt, 1% glucose, 0.1% asparagine, 0.05% yeast extract and trace elements was prepared. The cultures were grown at 26°C. for three days. Mycellium was removed by centrifugation and protein in the supernatant were absorbed to DEAE-cellulose in a batchwise process after

pH was adjusted with 1M HCl to 7.2. DEAE-cellulose was filtered off and washed with 20 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.2) until no absorbancy at 280 nm was recorded. Streptavidin was eluted with 20 mM Tris-HCl (pH 7.2) containing 0.5 M NaCl. Ammonium sulfate precipitation was used to further concentrate the streptavidin (50% w/v at 4°C.).

5 The precipitate was dissolved in water and dialyzed against 1.0 M NaCl, 50 mM Na₂CO₃. In the next step affinity column chromatography on iminobiotin sepharose was used. Eluted streptavidin from iminobiotin sepharose column was shown to be chromatographically pure by non-denaturing agarose-gel electrophoresis.

The final purification of streptavidin is accomplished by affinity purification through an iminobiotin-sepharose column. Iminobiotin is an analog of biotin in which the carbonyl of the urea moiety is substituted with an imine function. Iminobiotin will bind avidin and streptavidin at basic pH but the complex is dissociable at acidic pH.

Iminobiotin is prepared from biotin in several steps. Biotin is hydrolyzed by barium hydroxide to cis-3,4-diamino-2-tetrahydrothiophene-valeric acid which is reacted with cyanogen bromide to iminobiotin. The iminobiotin is coupled to amino sepharose via the N-hydroxysuccinimide ester of its hydrobromide salt.

15 The crude protein mixture from DEAE eluted *Streptomyces avidinii* incubation media is dissolved in 50 mM sodium carbonate and 1.0 M sodium chloride (pH 11) and applied to an iminobiotin column pre-equilibrated with this solution. The column is eluted at pH 11. Streptavidin is subsequently eluted with 50 mM ammonium acetate, pH 4.0 containing 0.5 M sodium chloride. The eluent is dialyzed three times against 1 mM Tris pH 7.4 and lyophilized to dryness.

In the practices of this invention avidin is useful as a detecting mechanism for labeled DNA, such as biotin-labeled DNA. However, avidin itself, such at about neutral pH, complexes with DNA with the result that any signal derivable from a complex between biotin-labeled DNA and avidin might be lost or be non-detectable in the background due to the complex formation between avidin and unlabeled DNA. This disadvantage of the use of avidin in the practices of this invention is not possessed by streptavidin which does not form a complex with DNA at about neutral pH but is capable of forming a complex with the biotin portion of biotin-labeled DNA.

In another aspect directed to the broad utility of avidin and streptavidin for detecting labeled compounds other than DNA, avidin and streptavidin are particularly effective as detecting mechanisms for labeled proteins, polysaccharides and lipids. By way of example, one can fix to a solid matrix a specific antigen and bind to this antigen an antibody directed against this antigen which itself has been biotinylated. Then one can assay for the presence of this biotinylated antibody by reacting it with avidin or streptavidin complexed with an enzyme, such as calf intestine alkaline phosphatase, or to which fluorescing molecule, as for example fluoroscein has been linked.

35 The use of the antigen-antibody system for detecting either antigen or antibody is well known. A comparable system is a system based on a glycosylated substrate or molecule and matching or appropriate lectin. In this system the lectin would carry a label, such as fluorescein or appropriate enzyme. In this glycosyl-lectin system the labeled lectin forms a complex with the glycosyl moiety, comparable to the antigen-antibody complex, and this complex comprising the glycosylated molecule and appropriate labeled lectin having the necessary glycosyl or sugar moiety specificity would then present itself eliciting the expected response from the label portion of the labeled lectin making up the glycosyl-lectin complex.

Another aspect of the practices of this invention which is particularly advantageous is to carry out the detection or hybridization in the liquid phase between the DNA sought to be detected and the DNA detecting probe. In this liquid phase system both the DNA molecule to be detected and the appropriate DNA detecting probe are not attached to any insoluble substrate or any insoluble chemical moiety. The advantages of the liquid phase detection system reside in the speed of hybridization or hybrid formation between the DNA to be detected and the appropriate DNA probe therefor. For example, in a solid-liquid system the time required to effect recognition and hybridization formation is about ten times greater than if it were carried out in a completely liquid system, i.e. both DNA to be detected and the detecting DNA are not attached to an insoluble moiety.

50 The probes prepared in accordance with the practices of this invention are adaptable for use in the detection of viruses and bacteria in fluids as indicated hereinabove. Where the fluids to be examined do not contain large amounts of protein, the viruses therein can be concentrated by absorption on hydroxyapatite and eluted in a small amount of phosphate buffer. When the fluid to be examined contains large amounts of protein, the virus s can be concentrated by high speed centrifugation.

55 If antibody were available, absorption on an affinity column and elution with acid would be preferable because it would be possible to process many probes in accordance with the practices of this invention at the same time. The bacteria to be examined is usually readily concentrated by centrifugation.

In accordance with the practices of this invention, the identification or characterization of the isolated particles, viruses and bacteria, would be hybridization of the characterizing or identifying DNA thereof with a specific single stranded DNA probe prepared in accordance with the practices of this invention. After hybridization, excess non-hybridized probe DNA would be digested with S₁ nuclease and exonuclease I from *E. coli* at high salt content to suppress the nicking activity of the S₁ nuclease, see Vogt, Methods in Enzymology, Vol. 65, pages 248-255 (1980). This nuclease treatment would produce mononucleotides from the excess, non-hybridized single-stranded DNA probe but would leave the double-stranded, hybridized DNA intact. This would then be absorbed at high salt content on Dowex anion exchanger (the nucleotides and the small amount of oligonucleotides will not bind to the resin in high salt concentration). The resulting hybridized DNA would then be identified or characterized by various procedures applicable to the practices of this invention.

The special nucleotides of this invention include a phosphoric acid P moiety, a sugar or monosaccharide S moiety, a base B moiety, a purine or a pyrimidine and a signalling chemical moiety Sig covalently attached thereto, either to the P, S or B moiety. Following are structural formulas of various base B moieties and nucleotides which are modified in accordance with the practices of this invention.

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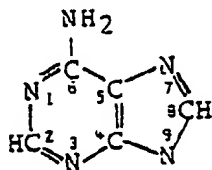
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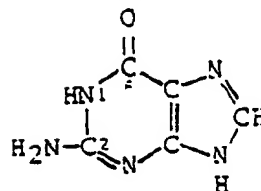
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The major purines

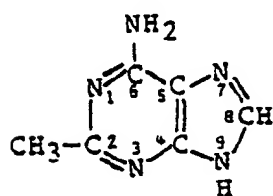
Adenine
(6-aminopurine)



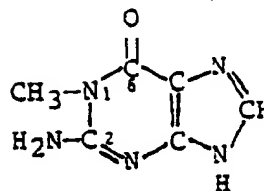
Guanine
(2-amino-6-oxypurine)

Two minor purines

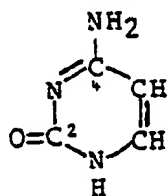
2-Methyladenine



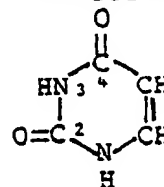
1-Methylguanine

The major pyrimidines

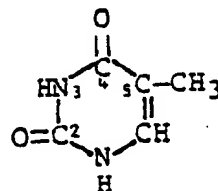
Cytosine
(2-oxy-4-aminopyrimidine)



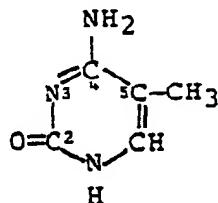
Uracil
(2,4-dioxypyrimidine)



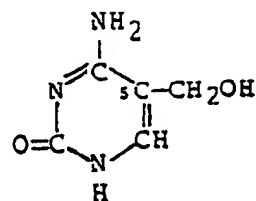
Thymine
(5-methyl-2,4-dioxypyrimidine)

Two minor pyrimidines

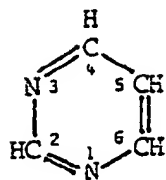
5-Methylcytosine



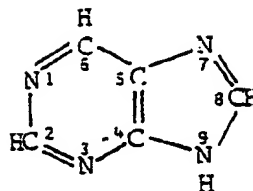
5-Hydroxymethylcytosine



PYRIMIDINE

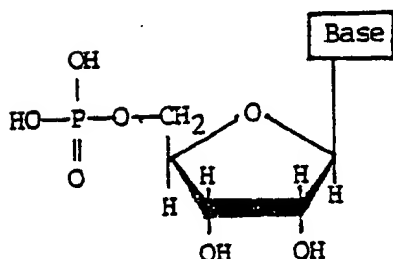


PURINE

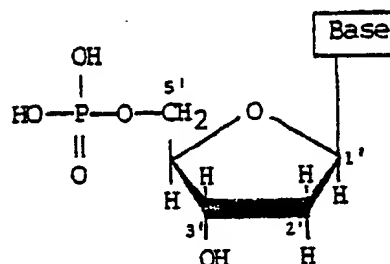


The major ribonucleotides and deoxyribonucleotides.

Ribonucleoside
5'-monophosphates



2'-Deoxyribonucleoside
5'-monophosphates



General Structure

Names

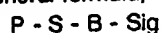
Adenosine 5'-phosphoric acid
(adenylic acid; AMP)
Guanosine 5'-phosphoric acid
(guanylic acid; GMP)
Cytidine 5'-phosphoric acid
(cytidylic acid; CMP)
Uridine 5'-phosphoric acid
(uridylic acid; UMP)

General Structure

Names

Deoxyadenosine 5'-phosphoric acid
(deoxyadenylic acid; dAMP)
Deoxyguanosine 5'-phosphoric acid
(deoxyguanylic acid; dGMP)
Deoxycytidine 5'-phosphoric acid
(deoxycytidylic acid; dCMP)
Deoxythymidine 5'-phosphoric acid
(deoxythymidylic acid; dTMP)

The special nucleotides in accordance with this invention, as indicated hereinabove, in addition to the P, S and B moieties, include a chemical moiety Sig covalently attached to the P, S and/or B moieties. Of special interest in accordance with the practices of this invention would be those nucleotides having the general formula,



wherein P is the phosphoric acid moiety, including mono-, di-, tri-, or tetraphosphate, S the sugar monosaccharide moiety, B the base moiety, either a purine or a pyrimidine. The phosphoric acid moiety P is attached at the 3' and/or the 5' position of the S moiety when the nucleotide is a deoxyribonucleotide and

at the 2', 3' and/or 5' position when the nucleotide is a ribonucleotide. The base B moiety is attached from the N1 position or the N9 position to the 1' position of the S moiety when the base moiety is a pyrimidine or a purine, respectively. The Sig moiety is covalently attached to the B moiety of the nucleotide and when so attached is capable of signalling itself or makes itself self-detecting or its presence known and desirably or preferably permits the incorporation of the resulting nucleotide P - S - B - Sig into or to form a double-stranded helical DNA or RNA or DNA-RNA hybrid and/or to be detectable thereon.

Another special nucleotide in accordance with this invention is characterized by the general formula:



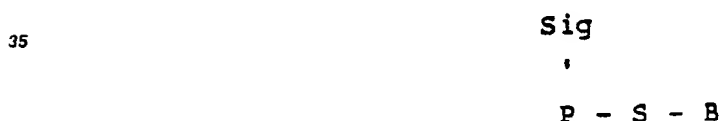
Such nucleotides in accordance with this invention would be characterized as ribonucleotides. The phosphoric acid moiety is attached at the 2', 3' and/or 5' position of the sugar S moiety and the base B being attached from the N1 position or the N9 position to the 1' position of the sugar S moiety when said base is a pyrimidine or a purine, respectively. The Sig chemical moiety is covalently attached to the sugar S moiety and said Sig chemical moiety when attached to said S moiety is capable of signalling itself or making itself self-detecting or its presence known and preferably permits the incorporation of the ribonucleotide into its corresponding double-stranded RNA or a DNA-RNA hybrid.

Such nucleotides



desirably have the Sig chemical moiety attached to the C2' position of the S moiety or the C3' position of the S moiety.

Still further, nucleotides in accordance with the practices of this invention include the nucleotides having the formula,



wherein P is the phosphoric acid moiety, S the sugar moiety and B the base moiety. In these special nucleotides the P moiety is attached to the 3' and/or the 5' position of the S moiety when the nucleotide is deoxyribonucleotide and at the 2', 3' and/or 5' position when the nucleotide is a ribonucleotide. The base B is either a purine or a pyrimidine and the B moiety is attached from the N1 or the N9 position to the 1' position of the sugar moiety when said B moiety is a pyrimidine or a purine, respectively. The Sig chemical moiety is covalently attached to the phosphoric acid P moiety via the chemical linkage



said Sig, when attached to said P moiety being capable of signalling itself or making itself self-detecting or its presence known and desirably the nucleotide is capable of being incorporated into a double-stranded polynucleotide, such as DNA, RNA or DNA-RNA hybrid and when so incorporated therein is still self-

detecting.

It is pointed out that the special nucleotides in accordance with the practices of this invention described or defined hereinabove by the general formula P - S - B - Sig, also include nucleotides wherein the Sig chemical moiety is covalently attached to the B moiety at the N⁶ or 6-amino group position when the B moiety is adenine or the N² or 2-amino group position when the B moiety is guanine or the N⁴ or 4-amino group position when the B moiety is cytosine. The resulting nucleotides containing the Sig moiety attached thereto are capable of signalling themselves or making themselves self-detecting or their presence known and being detectable is a double-stranded or DNA, RNA or DNA-RNA hybrid.

By way of summary, as indicated hereinabove with respect to the make-up of the various special nucleotides in accordance with this invention, the special nucleotides can be described as comprising a phosphoric acid moiety P, a sugar moiety S and a base moiety B, a purine or pyrimidine, which combination of P-S-B is well known with respect to and defines nucleotides, both deoxyribonucleotides and ribonucleotides. The nucleotides are then modified in accordance with the practices of this invention by having covalently attached thereto, to the P moiety and/or the S moiety and/or the B moiety, a chemical moiety Sig. The chemical moiety Sig so attached to the nucleotide P-S-B is capable of rendering or making the resulting nucleotide, now comprising P-S-B with the Sig moiety being attached to one or more of the other moieties, self-detecting or signalling itself or capable of making its presence known per se, when incorporated into a polynucleotide, especially a double-stranded polynucleotide, such as a double-stranded DNA, a double-stranded RNA or a double-stranded DNA-RNA hybrid. The Sig moiety desirably should not interfere with the capability of the nucleotide to form a double-stranded polynucleotide containing the special Sig-containing nucleotide in accordance with this invention and, when so incorporated therein, the Sig-containing nucleotide is capable of detection, localization or observation.

The Sig moiety employed in the make-up of the special nucleotides of this invention could comprise an enzyme or enzymic material, such as alkaline phosphatase, glucose oxidase, horseradish peroxidase or ribonuclease. The Sig moiety could also contain a fluorescing component, such as fluorescein or rhodamine or dansyl. If desired, the Sig moiety could include a magnetic component associated or attached thereto, such as a magnetic oxide or magnetic iron oxide, which would make the nucleotide or polynucleotide containing such a magnetic-containing Sig moiety detectable by magnetic means. The Sig moiety might also include an electron dense component, such as ferritin, so as to be available by observation. The Sig moiety could also include a radioactive isotope component, such as radioactive cobalt, making the resulting nucleotide observable by radiation detecting means. The Sig moiety could also include a hapten component or per se be capable of complexing with an antibody specific thereto. Most usefully, the Sig moiety is a polysaccharide or oligosaccharide or monosaccharide, which is capable of complexing with or being attached to a sugar or polysaccharide binding protein, such as a lectin, e.g. Concanavilin A. The Sig component or moiety of the special nucleotides in accordance with this invention could also include a chemiluminescent component.

As indicated in accordance with the practices of this invention, the Sig component could comprise any chemical moiety which is attachable either directly or through a chemical linkage or linker arm to the nucleotide, such as to the base B component therein, or the sugar S component therein, or the phosphoric acid P component thereof.

The Sig component of the nucleotides in accordance with this invention and the nucleotides and polynucleotides incorporating the nucleotides of this invention containing the Sig component are equivalent to and useful for the same purposes as the nucleotides described in EP-A2-0 063 879.

More specifically, the chemical moiety A described in EP-A2-0 063 879 is functionally the equivalent of the Sig component or chemical moiety of the special nucleotides of this invention. Accordingly, the Sig component or chemical moiety of nucleotides of this invention can be directly covalently attached to the P, S or B moieties or attached thereto via a chemical linkage or linkage arm as described in EP-A2-0 063 879 as indicated by the dotted line connecting B and A of the nucleotides of EP-A2-0 063 879. The various linker arms or linkages identified in EP-A2-0 063 879 are applicable to and useful in the preparation of the special nucleotides of this invention.

A particularly important and useful aspect of the special nucleotides of this invention is the use of such nucleotides in the preparation of DNA or RNA probes. Such probes would contain a nucleotide sequence substantially matching the DNA or RNA sequence of genetic material to be located and/or identified. The probe would contain one or more of the special nucleotides of this invention. A probe having a desired nucleotide sequence, such as a single-stranded polynucleotide, either DNA or RNA probe, would then be brought into contact with DNA or RNA genetic material to be identified. Upon the localization of the probe and the formation of a double-stranded polynucleotide containing the probe and the matching DNA or RNA material to be identified, the resulting formed double-stranded DNA or RNA-containing material would then

be observable and identified. A probe in accordance with this invention may contain substantially any number of nucleotide units, from about 5 nucleotides up to about 500 or more, as may be required. It would appear that 12 matching, preferably consecutive, nucleotide units would be sufficient to effect an identification of most of the DNA or RNA material to be investigated or identified, if the 12 nucleotide sequence of the probe matches a corresponding cooperative sequence in the DNA or RNA material being investigated or to be identified. As indicated, such probes may contain one or more of the special Sig-containing nucleotides in accordance with this invention, preferably at least about one special nucleotide per 5-10 of the nucleotides in the probe.

As indicated hereinabove, various techniques may be employed in the practices of this invention for the incorporation of the special nucleotides of this invention into DNA and related structures. One particularly useful technique referred to hereinabove involves the utilization of terminal transferase for the addition of biotinylated dUMP onto the 3' ends of a polypyrimidine or to single-stranded DNA. The resulting product, such as a single-stranded or cloned DNA, which has biotinylated dUMP attached to the 3' ends thereof, can be recovered by means of a Sepharose-avidin column wherein the avidin would complex with the biotinylated dUMP at the ends of the DNA and be subsequently recovered. In accordance with the practices of this invention hybridization to mRNA could be accomplished in solution and the resulting hybrid recovered via a Sepharose-avidin column and the mRNA recovered therefrom. Similar techniques could be employed to isolate DNA-RNA hybrids. This technique employing terminal transferase for the addition of the special nucleotides in accordance with this invention is widely applicable and the resulting modified nucleotides containing the special nucleotides in accordance with this invention including the special biotinylated nucleotides or the special glycosylated nucleotides could be selectively recovered via complexing with avidin upon a Sepharose-avidin column or complexing with a lectin, such as Concanavalin A or a Sepharose-Concanavalin A column.

Illustrative of the practices of this invention, biotinylated dUTP was added to the 3' ends of d pT 4 as well as single and double stranded DNA employing terminal transferase and the resulting product was purified through G-50 Sepharose and separated on a Sepharose-avidin affinity column. It was found that 69 % of the d pT 4 molecules were biotinylated and recovered on the Sepharose-avidin column. The results of this experiment established that terminal transferase added biotinylated dUMP to the 3' ends of a polypyrimidine.

The detection of nucleic acids to which specific molecules have been covalently attached can be effected through the use of many naturally occurring proteins to which small molecules are known to specifically bind. In this procedure the small molecules are bound to the nucleotide using the allyl amine side chain. These nucleotides are then incorporated into specific nucleic acids using a DNA or RNA polymerase or ligase reaction or a chemical linkage. After annealing this probe with a complementary antiprobe sequence, the presence of the probe is assayed for by the specific binding of the protein to the ligand covalently bound to the probe.

Examples of protein-ligand reactions that are appropriate for this type of detector system include:

1. Enzymes and allosteric effector or modulator molecules. An example of this is the enzyme threonine dehydratase which is a heterotropic enzyme in that the effector molecule, L-isoleucine, is different than the substrate, L-threonine, J. Monod, J. Wyman and J.P. Changeux (1965), J. Mol. Biol. 12:88-118.
2. Effector molecules involved in regulation. An example of this is the specific binding of 3',5'-cyclic adenosine monophosphate to the cyclic AMP receptor protein, I. Pastan and R. Perlman, Science 169:339-344 (1969). Another example is the lactose repressor molecule and the inducer molecules isopropyl-thiogalactoside or thiomethylgalactoside. These two inducer molecules are called gratuitous inducers in that they are not metabolized by the enzymes they induce, W. Gilbert and B. Muller-Hill, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. - (US), 70:3581-3584, (1973).
3. Hormone receptors and other receptors on the surface of the cell to which organic molecules will specifically bind. An example of this is the epinephrine-epinephrine receptor system in which epinephrine is bound in a stereospecific manner with a high affinity to the receptor. With this system, since the receptor protein is insoluble in water, it will be imbedded in a lipid bilayer structure as for instance a liposome. Suitable detector systems would include specific enzymes or fluorescent molecules inside or within the lipid bilayer.
4. Specific ligand binding proteins included in the transport of small molecules. An example of this is the periplasmic binding proteins of bacteria which have been shown to bind many amino acids, glucose, galactose, ribose and other sugars, Pardee, A. Science, 162:632-637, (1968); G. L. Hazelbaur, and J. Adler, Nature New Bio. 230: 101-104, (1971).

In the above-mentioned examples the ligand bound to the nucleic acid reacts with a naturally occurring protein. The specificity of this reaction resides in the ligand-binding site of the protein.

One further example of small molecule interaction with naturally occurring proteins involves the specific

binding of coenzyme or other prosthetic molecules to enzymes. Examples of such coenzymes include thiamin pyrophosphate, flavine mononucleotide, flavine adenine dinucleotide, nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide, nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide phosphate, coenzyme A, pyridoxyl phosphate, biotin, tetrahydrofolic acid, coenzyme B₁₂, lipoic and ascorbic acid. Many of these molecules form covalent linkages with their apoenzymes.

However, some, for example, coenzyme A, coenzyme B₁₂ and tetrahydrofolic acid, associate in a non-covalent but specific manner with their cognate apoenzymes. A specific coenzyme-apoenzyme system for use in this system is flavine adenine dinucleotide (FAD) and flavine adenine dinucleotide reductase isolated from *Escherichia coli*. With this system the binding of FAD is sufficiently strong to permit detection.

The special nucleotides of this invention and polynucleotides including such nucleotides, either single-stranded or double-stranded polynucleotides, DNA and/or RNA, comprising the components, phosphoric acid moiety P, the sugar or monosaccharide moiety S, the base moiety B, a purine or a pyrimidine, and the signalling or self-detecting moiety, Sig, covalently attached to either the P, S or B moieties, as indicated hereinabove, have many uses and utilities. For example, the nucleotides of this invention and polynucleotides containing the nucleotides of this invention are useful as immune-stimulating agents, as adjuvants in vaccines, as agents for the stimulation or induction from competent cells, such as lymphocytes, for the production of lymphokines, cytokines or cytokinins, interferon or other cellular products.

It is well known that double-stranded poly A:U is a stimulator or inducer for the production of interferon, although weakly so. Similarly, poly I:C is also known as a stimulator or inducing agent for the production of interferon.

The advantage of polynucleotides, such as double-stranded polynucleotides incorporating one or more nucleotides in accordance with this invention is that, in effect, such polynucleotides would be more effective and more powerful inducing or stimulating agents for the production of interferon and related materials from cells. For example, nucleotides in accordance with this invention containing the above-described components P, S, B and Sig, are suitably prepared so that the nucleotides and polynucleotides prepared therefrom are more resistant to nucleases. Similarly, such nucleotides and polynucleotides containing the same and suitably prepared which are more capable of contacting, stimulating and penetrating cellular surfaces or membranes, such as the cellular surfaces or membranes of lymphocytes and other cells so as to stimulate the same for the production of a desired cellular product, such as interferon.

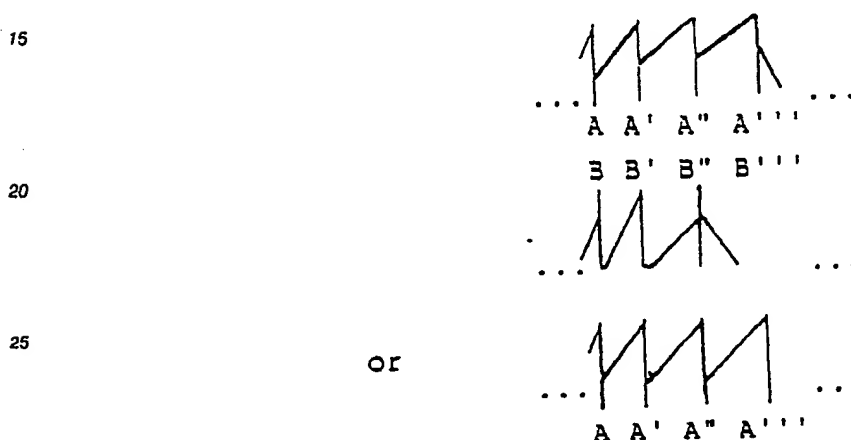
Particularly useful among those special nucleotides in accordance with this invention having the formula P-S-B-Sig and especially useful are those wherein the Sig component is at the 5 position of the pyrimidine or the 7 position of the purine or a deazapurine or the N² position of guanine or the N⁶ position of adenine. Such nucleotides and polynucleotides incorporating the same, both single-stranded and double-stranded nucleotides, DNA and/or RNA are prepared in accordance with this invention to provide increased stability with respect to the double-stranded helix of DNA or RNA or DNA-RNA hybrid containing the same. Increased resistance to nucleases is also achievable as well as alterations or favorable changes in the hydrophobic properties or electrical or charge properties of the nucleotides and polynucleotides containing the same. Also, nucleotides and polynucleotides in accordance with this invention are prepared which, when administered to humans, have reduced pyrogenicity or exhibit less other whole body toxic responses. Additionally, the nucleotides and polynucleotides are prepared in accordance with this invention to provide a ligand, such as the component Sig, to which specific polypeptides can combine to create or bring about the formation of RNA complexes. It is seen therefore that the nucleotides of this invention include the P, S, B and Sig components wherein the Sig is covalently attached to either the P, S or B moieties open up or provide a whole array of chemical agents having special biological effects including therapeutic effects and cytotoxic effects.

The special nucleotides of this invention, including polynucleotides containing these nucleotides, in addition to being stimulating or inducing agents for the production of cellular materials or products, such as interferons, lymphokines and/or cytokines, are also useful for their chemotherapeutic effect and for the preparation of chemotherapeutic agents based thereon but also for their cytotoxic effects and the production of cytotoxic agents based thereon. The moiety Sig attached to the special nucleotides of this invention containing the other moieties or components P, S, B provides a site per se for the attachment thereto, the Sig component, of special agents of known chemotherapeutic or cytotoxic effect. Such nucleotides could be introduced or administered to the subject being treated, e.g. human body or animal, so as to be incorporated into the DNA and/or RNA components of the body or cell so as to either interfere with the synthesis of the body or cellular DNA and/or RNA or to attack tumors or to, in effect, kill or otherwise interfere with the growth of undesired cells.

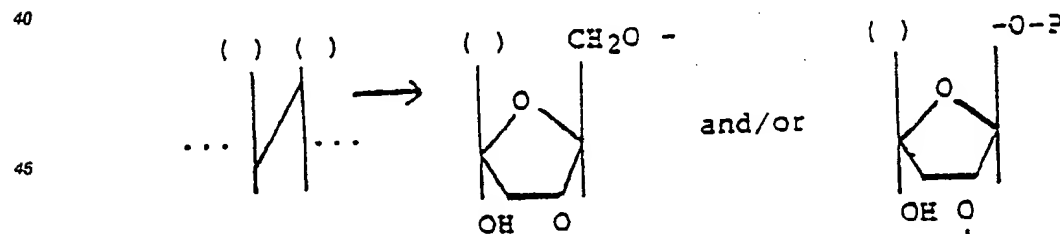
The administration of the nucleotides and/or polynucleotides containing the nucleotides to the body, human body or animal, can be effected by a number of suitable means. Particularly effective would be the

intravenous introduction to the body of preparations containing the nucleotides of this invention and a suitable physiologically acceptable carrier or the nucleotides could be administered subcutaneously, transdermally, or intramuscularly or by direct introduction into the site where the chemotherapeutic or cytotoxic effect of the nucleotides is sought or desired to be effective. Not only could desired
 5 chemotherapeutic or cytotoxic effects be achieved systemically or locally but also, as indicated hereinabove, the special P, S, B and Sig-containing nucleotides of this invention, including polynucleotides containing such nucleotides, are useful as immune-stimulating agents and adjuvants therefor. Accordingly, vaccines containing the special nucleotides and polynucleotides in accordance with this invention can be prepared having improved effectiveness and versatility.

10 Of special interest in the practices of this invention improved polynucleotides incorporating the special nucleotides of this invention are provided as inducers or stimulating agents for the production of interferon. Such polynucleotides would be single-stranded or double-stranded ribonucleotides, dsRNA, having the structures,



30 where A and B are complementary base pairs, such as a purine, a 7-deazapurine or pyrimidine modified by the addition of an organic moiety Sig in accordance with the disclosures of this invention on the 5 position of the pyrimidine ring or the 7 position of the purine ring or the N² of guanine, or the N⁶ of adenine or the N⁴ of cytosine as described herein. The modifications of the polynucleotides at these positions lead to
 35 relatively undistruptive or non-distruptive double-stranded nucleic acid molecules as measured by rates of association and melting points. In the special polynucleotides of this invention employed as inducers of interferon and other cellular or humoral factors or components, such as lymphokines or cytokines, the following groups would be attached thereto as indicated by the formulas,



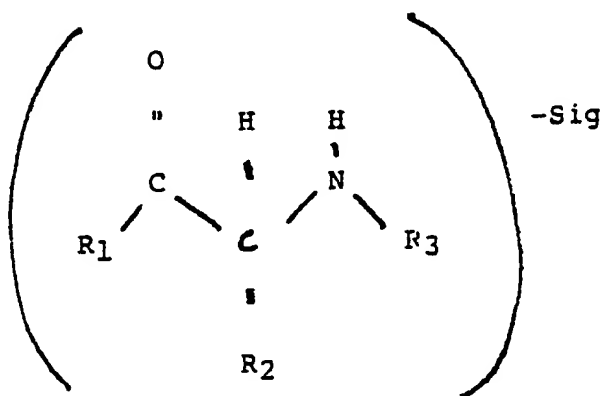
50 In the utilization of the special polynucleotides of this invention, such as the special dsRNA of this invention in the induction process for the production of interferon it has been demonstrated that DEAE-dextran facilitates this operation. It appears that since DEAE-dextran complexes with dsRNA and protects it for nuclease degradation, thereby enhancing interferon induction. It has also been noted that poly rC : rI is taken into cells more efficiently when complexed with DEAE-dextran. Accordingly, in the practices of this
 55 invention the hydrophobic properties and the ionic or electron charge properties of the special dsRNA of this invention are important factors and capable of manipulation in the applicability of these materials to induce interferon production. It has been observed that such conditions or factors which promote the induction of interferon also lead to and promote the induction of other cellular or humoral components, such

Poly rI:poly rC complexed poly L-lysine exhibits adjuvant properties and such properties are enhanced and improved in accordance with the practices of this invention when the poly rI and poly rC components are modified to include one or more of the special nucleotides in accordance with this invention.

The preparation of DNA probes in accordance with another aspect of this invention can be carried out in a manner which does not require the preparation or utilization of the special nucleotides described herein. For example, double-stranded DNA can be reacted with a carcinogen or alkylating agent. After the carcinogen has reacted with or alkylated the double-stranded DNA, the resulting modified DNA is melted to produce a DNA hybridizing probe containing the reaction product of the DNA and the carcinogen or alkylating agent. When thus-modified or reacted DNA is employed as a hybridizing probe, any resulting formed double helix or double-stranded DNA would be assayed or searched out by means of a double antibody technique. The primary antibody would be an anti-carcinogen and the secondary antibody would be horseradish-peroxidase conjugated anti-peroxidase antibody. The advantage of this technique is that it would be easy to label the double-stranded DNA. This special approach is indicated hereinabove in the examples accompanying the description of this invention and is generally applicable for the preparation of DNA probes from double-stranded or double helical DNA. However, this procedure is a disruptive procedure involving the modification of the double helical deoxyribonucleotide polymer or DNA.

In the description of the special nucleotides and modified DNA employed or developed in the practices of this invention, mention has been made of mono, oligo and polysaccharides. It is pointed out that derivatives of mono, oligo and polysaccharides are also useful in the preparation of the special nucleotides of this invention. For example, it is possible to modify individual sugar moieties employed in the make-up of the special nucleotides and employ the resulting modified sugar moieties to effect or carry out additional chemical reactions. Such modified mono, oligo and polysaccharide moieties, when employed as the Sig moiety in the preparation of the special nucleotides of this invention, provide an added versatility with respect to the detection of the nucleotides or other compounds containing such modified saccharides either as the sugar S or as the Sig moiety thereof.

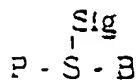
In another aspect of this invention the Sig moiety instead of being attached to a nucleotide could also be attached to proteins. Not only could such proteins be attached to nucleotides or polynucleotides but also such proteins could be identified per se whether attached to a nucleotide or polynucleotide or unattached. In accordance with the practices of this aspect of the invention, a suitable such protein adduct would have the formula,



wherein R₁ is an OH or an amino acid or acids and R₂ is an amino acid side chain and R₃ is H or an amino acid or acids and Sig is attached to the R₁ and/or R₂ and/or R₃.

Claims

1. A ribonucleotide having the formula



wherein P is a phosphoric acid moiety, S is a sugar moiety and B is a pyrimidine, purine or 7-deazapurine moiety, P being attached at the 2', 3' and/or 5' position of S, B being attached to the 1' position of S from the N1 position when B is a pyrimidine or the N9 position when B is a purine or 7-deazapurine, and Sig is covalently attached to S directly or through a linkage group and represents a moiety which is detectable when said nucleotide is incorporated into a double-stranded nucleic acid duplex, Sig being a monosaccharide, polysaccharide or oligosaccharide or an electron dense component, a magnetic component, an enzyme component, a radioactive component, a catalytic metal component, a fluorescent component, a chemiluminescent component or an antigen, hapten or antibody component.

2. The nucleotide of claim 1 wherein Sig is a sugar residue and said sugar residue is complexed with or attached to a sugar or polysaccharide binding protein.

3. A ribonucleotide in accordance with claim 1 wherein Sig is attached to the C2' or the C3' position of S.

4. A polyribonucleotide comprising at least one nucleotide in accordance with claim 1.

5. A polyribonucleotide comprising at least one nucleotide of claim 1 wherein said polyribonucleotide is attached to a polypeptide.

6. The polyribonucleotide of claim 5 wherein said polypeptide is terminally attached thereto.

7. The polynucleotide of claim 5 wherein said polypeptide has at least one biotin, iminobiotin, antibiotin, antiiminobiotin, avidin, streptavidin or enzyme attached thereto.

8. A ribonucleotide in accordance with claim 1 wherein Sig includes an antigenic or hapten component capable of complexing with an antibody specific to said component.

9. Use of a nucleotide or polynucleotide according to one of the preceding claims for the manufacture of a chemotherapeutic agent for inhibiting RNA and/or DNA synthesis or function in an organism.

10. Use of a nucleotide or polynucleotide according to one of the preceding claims for the manufacture of a stimulating or inducing agent for the stimulation or induction of cells for the production of lymphokines, cytokines and/or interferon.

11. A method of detecting a first compound which includes a nucleotide in accordance with claim 1 as part of said first compound, which comprises contacting said first compound with a second compound capable of forming a complex therewith under suitable conditions so as to form said complex, said complex comprising said first compound and said second compound and detecting said complex.

12. A method of determining the presence of a deoxyribonucleic or ribonucleic acid molecule which comprises forming a double-stranded hybrid polynucleotide duplex which includes a single strand of deoxyribonucleic acid or ribonucleic acid corresponding to or derived from said deoxyribonucleic or ribonucleic acid molecule and a nucleotide in accordance with claim 1 and detecting said duplex.

13. A method of detecting the presence of a nucleic acid-containing etiological agent in a subject which comprises obtaining a suitable sample from said subject, detecting the presence in said sample of a deoxyribonucleic or ribonucleic acid naturally associated with said etiological agent by forming under suitable conditions a double-stranded polynucleotide duplex which includes a compound in accordance with claim 1 and a single strand of deoxyribonucleic or ribonucleic acid corresponding to or derived from said deoxyribonucleic or ribonucleic acid which is naturally associated with said etiological agent under suitable conditions and detecting the presence of said double-stranded polynucleotide duplex.

14. A method of testing a bacterium to determine its resistance to an antibiotic which comprises preparing a polynucleotide complementary to the deoxyribonucleic acid gene sequence of said bacterium which confers resistance of said bacterium to said antibiotic and which includes a nucleotide in accordance with claim 1 incorporated therein, contacting said polynucleotide under suitable conditions with a deoxyribonucleic acid obtained from said bacterium so as to form a double-stranded hybrid duplex and detecting the presence of said duplex, the detection of said duplex indicating resistance of said bacterium to said antibiotic and the absence of said duplex indicating the susceptibility of said bacterium to an antibiotic.

15. A method of diagnosing a genetic disorder in a subject which comprises preparing a polynucleotide complementary to the deoxyribonucleic acid gene sequence of said subject which is associated with said genetic disorder and includes a compound in accordance with claim 1 incorporated therein, contacting said polynucleotide under suitable conditions with deoxyribonucleic acid obtained from said subject so as to form a double-stranded hybrid duplex and detecting the presence of said hybrid duplex, the presence or absence of said hybrid duplex indicating the presence or absence of said genetic disorder.

16. A method of diagnosing thalassemia in a human subject which comprises preparing a polynucleotide complementary to the deoxyribonucleic acid gene sequence which is absent in β -minus-thalassemia subjects and includes a nucleotide in accordance with claim 1, contacting said polynucleotide under suitable conditions with deoxyribonucleic acid obtained from said subject so as to form a double-stranded hybrid duplex and determining the presence of said duplex, the absence of said duplex indicating the presence of β -minus-thalassemia.

17. A method of chromosomal karyotyping which comprises preparing a series of modified polynucleotides corresponding to a series of defined genetic sequences located on chromosomes, said polynucleotides including one or more compounds in accordance with claim 1, contacting said polynucleotides with deoxyribonucleic acid of or obtained from chromosomes so as to form hybrid duplexes and detecting said duplexes, thereby determining the location of said duplexes on said chromosomes and the location of said genetic sequences on said chromosomes.

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Fig. 1.

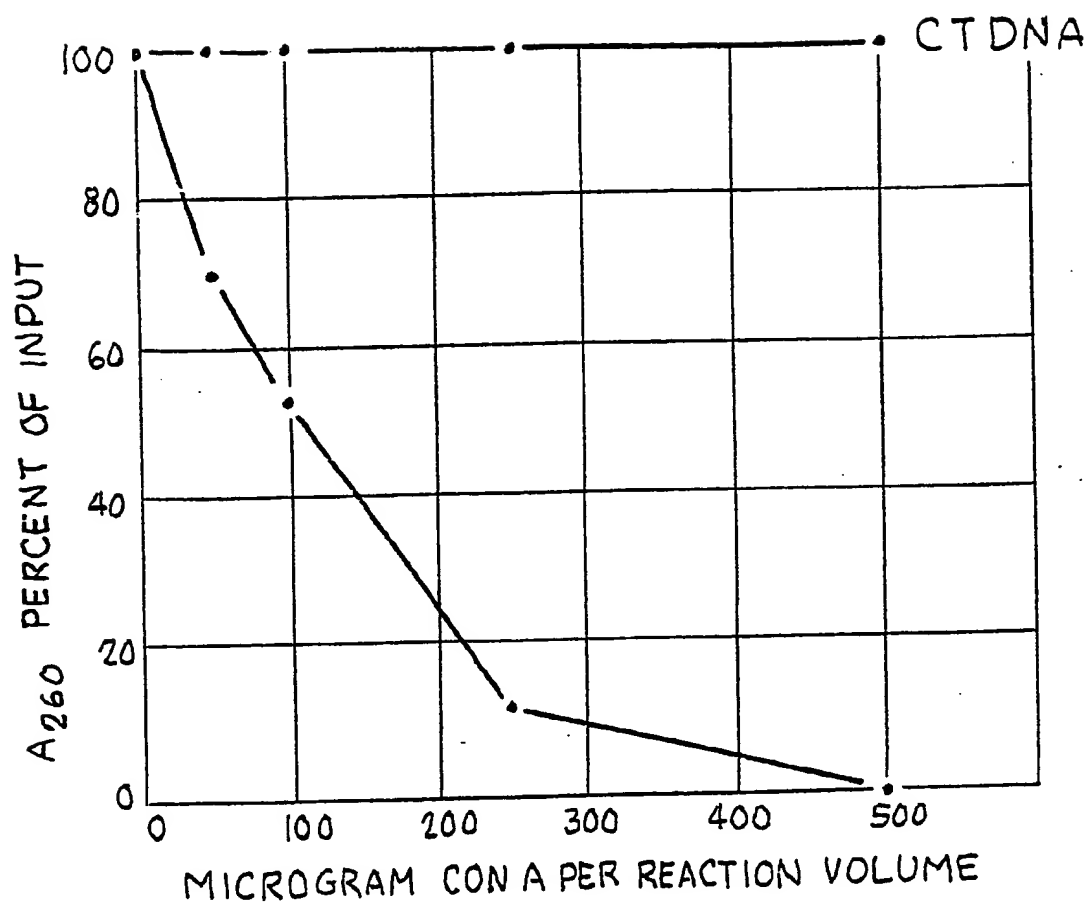
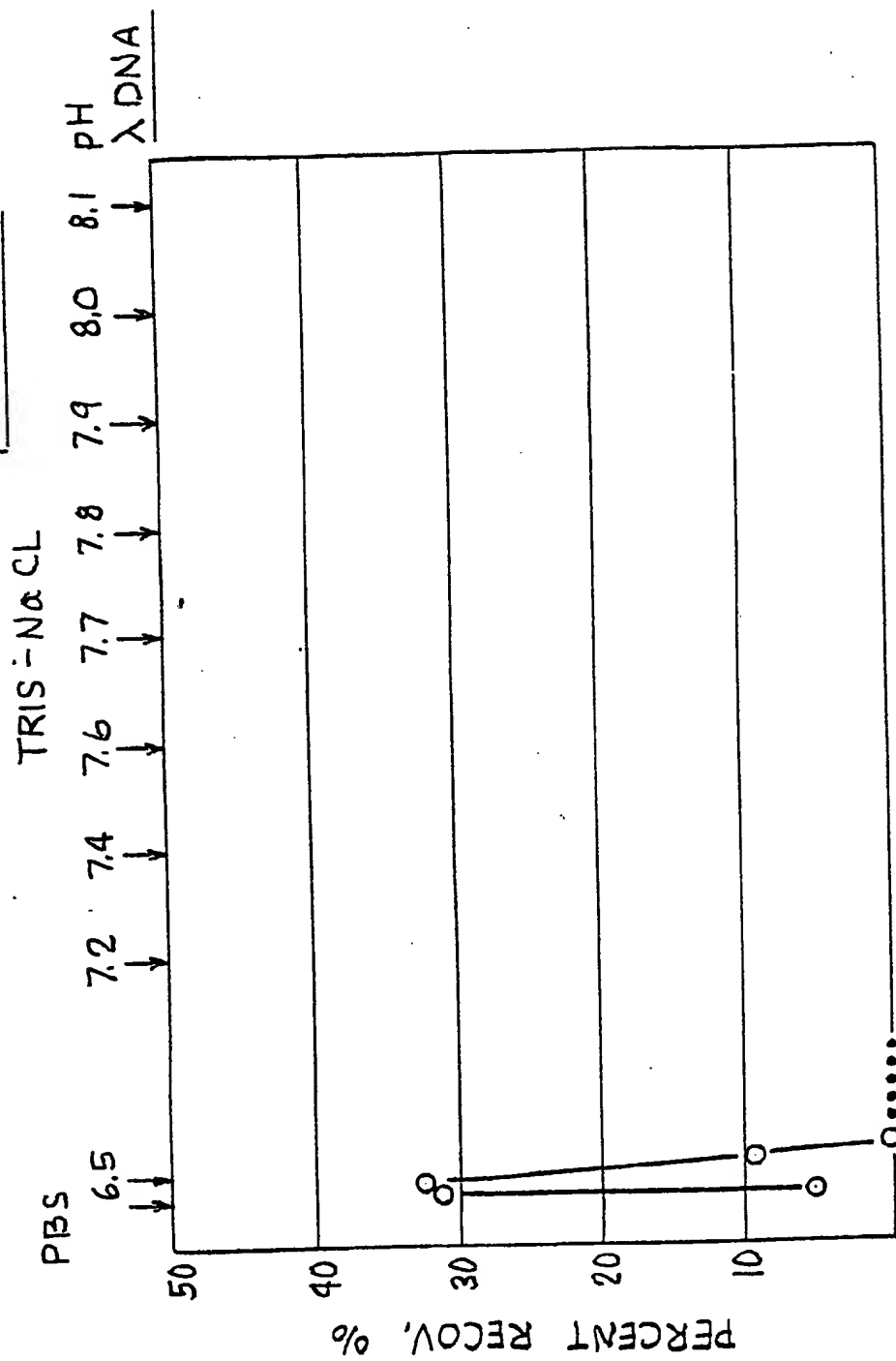


Fig. 2A.

DNA-BINDING TO CON A SEPHAROSE
pH ELUTION

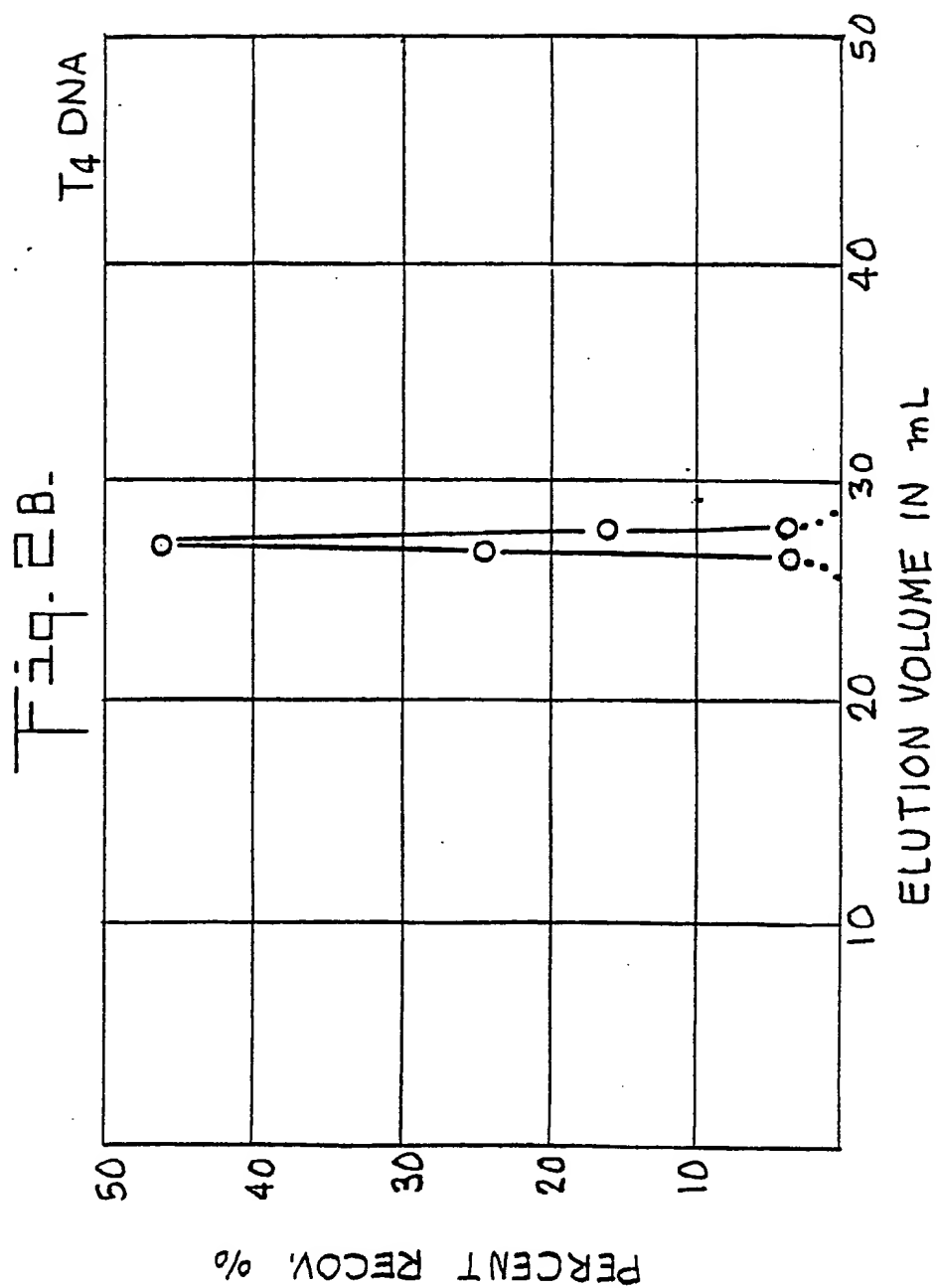
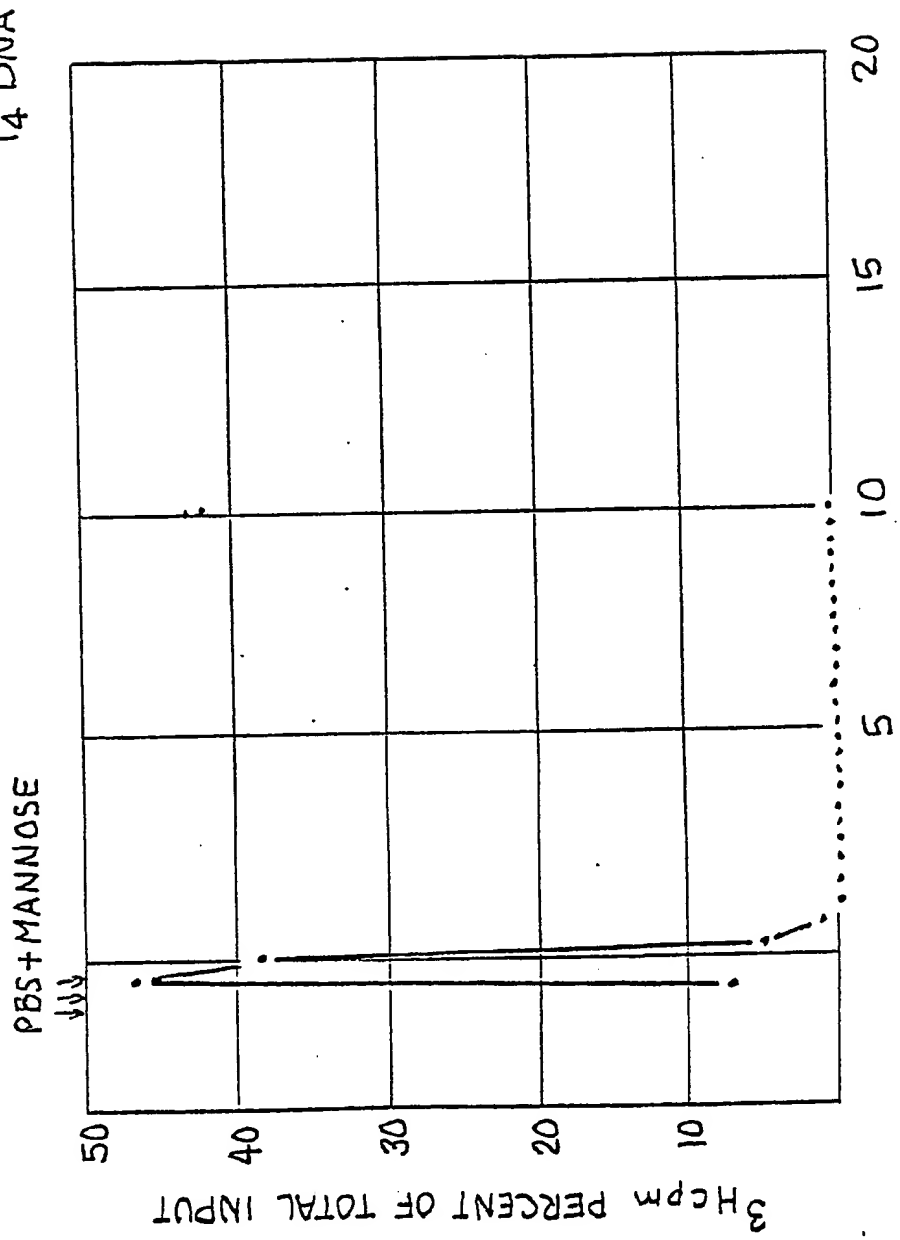


Fig. 3A.
DNA BINDING TO CON A SEPHAROSE
EFFECT ON MANNÖSE
T₄ DNA



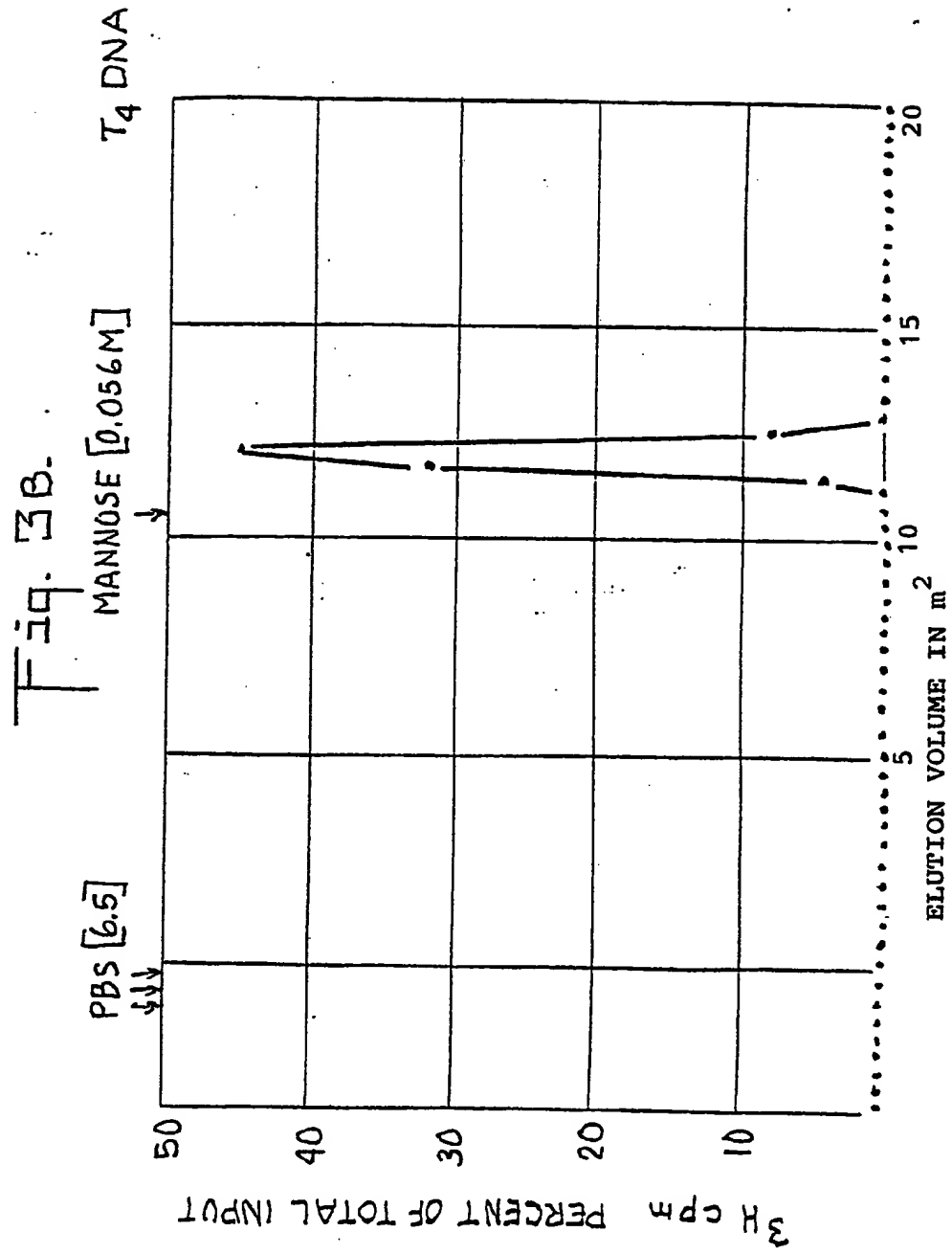


Fig. 4A.

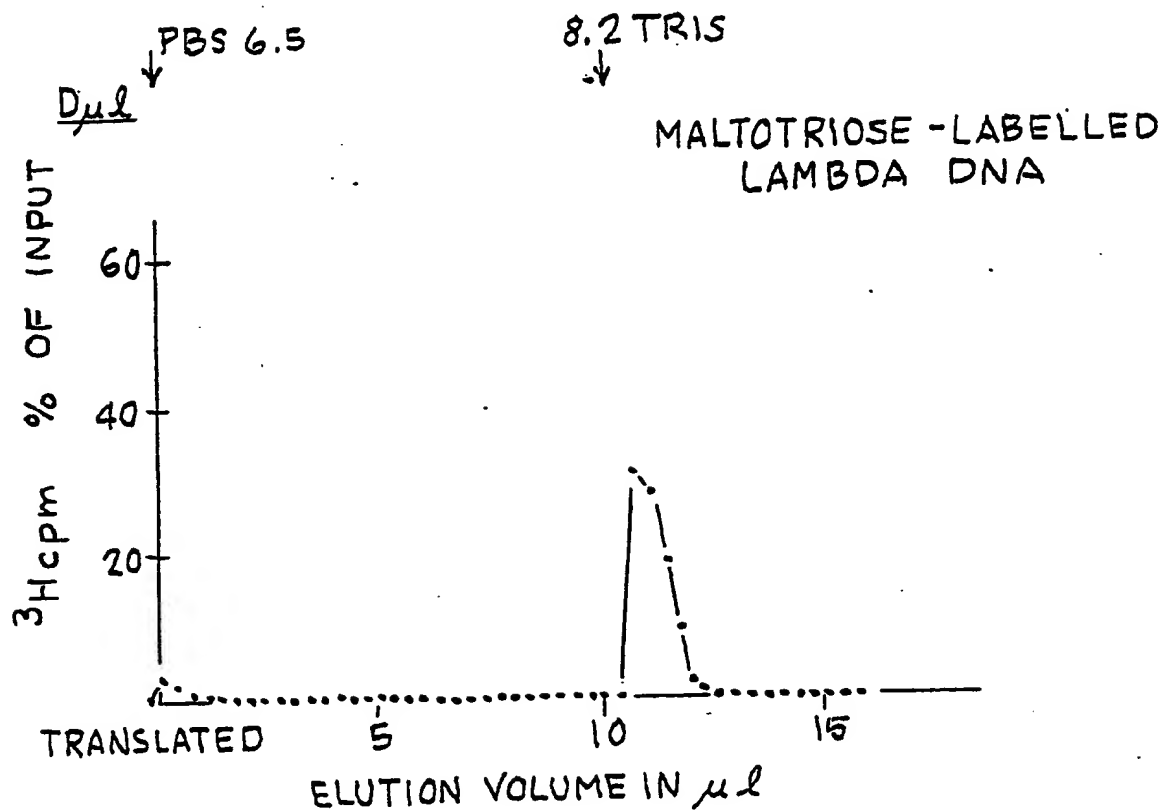
CON-A SEPHAROSE BINDING OF GLUCOSYLATED DNAS
3/8 - 9/82

Fig. 4B.

